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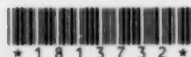
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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

* In accordance with the information transmitted to the States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document has not been edited.



I. Introduction

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hereby presents its third report within the framework of the third round of the Universal Periodic Review, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions 5/1, 16/21 and 17/119. The report surveys progress achieved in protecting and promoting human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the period from July 2013 to July 2018 pursuant to the country's obligations and the recommendations received during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review, which have met with full or partial endorsement.

2. "Saudi Vision 2030", adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 308 (25 April 2016) is a blueprint for general policies, programmes and initiatives, employing the Kingdom's potential and God-given resources within a framework of three themes: a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation. Each theme incorporates a number of goals linked directly or indirectly to human rights and addresses, explicitly or implicitly, a number of these rights, principally the right to security, health and work, the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, the right to development and participation in political and public life and the right to form and support associations, as well as a number of other social and political rights. Numerous programmes and executive measures have been launched on the basis of the Kingdom's ambitious vision.

3. To realise Saudi Vision 2030, a list of 12 programmes have been adopted. These are: the pilgrimage programme, national transformation programme, public investment fund programme, national industrial development and logistics programme, financial sector development programme, lifestyle quality programme, national companies promotion programme, strategic partnerships programme, housing programme, privatization programme, Saudi character building programme and fiscal balance program. For further information, please visit the Saudi Vision 2030 website: <http://vision2030.gov.sa/en>.

II. Methodology followed in preparing the report¹

4. The report preparation process consisted of the following stages:

(a) Previous recommendation follow-up stage: Since adoption of the Kingdom's report on the recommendations received during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review at the 25th session of the HRC (19 March 2014), work has been underway on following up those recommendations which received the full or partial endorsement of the Saudi Human Rights Commission. Supreme Order no. 28277 (21 March 2016) was issued, stressing that all stakeholders are required to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Commission to ensure that recommendations endorsed by the Kingdom are implemented and that appropriate measures are taken to address any obstacles to implementation. A standing committee was established by Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015), with responsibility for preparing reports on the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom is a party and reports required under the Universal Periodic Review. The committee is also responsible for monitoring recommendations emanating from regional and international treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. A number of government bodies are represented on the committee, which works in partnership with civil society institutions.

(b) Preparation stage: At this stage, the focus was on providing the members of the standing committee and participating civil society organizations with the necessary report-writing knowledge and skills through training courses and workshops. To this end, the Kingdom availed itself of the memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation concluded with the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (OHCHR) in 2012 to organize a number of training courses and workshops implemented by OHCHR-approved trainers in order to raise national capacities and ensure maximum compliance with the Universal Periodic Review process.

(c) Information gathering stage: At this stage, information required for the report was collected on the basis of the principles of objectivity, transparency and authenticity.

Meetings were held with representatives of civil society institutions to obtain information and review the information gathered.

(d) **Drafting stage:** At this stage, information relevant to the report was arranged by topic in line with certain criteria, emphasising general information in order to provide an understanding of the overall situation and focusing on achievements and accomplishments with regard to the recommendations endorsed by the Kingdom during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review. Technical terms were used to facilitate the reading and discussion of the report. This stage resulted in the preparation of a draft report.

(e) **National review and consultation stage:** At this stage, representatives of civil society organizations were invited to review and discuss the draft and a number of amendments were made. The present document represents the end product of the process.

III. General framework for the protection and promotion of human rights²

(a) The legal framework

5. In addition to existing human rights-related laws and legal provisions, numerous laws, regulations, orders, decisions etc. were issued during the period covered by the report and many amendments made to human rights-related laws and regulations. There follows a brief review of the most significant legal provisions:

Laws and regulations

Protection against Abuse Act³

6. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 52 (21 September 2013), the Act represents a key national framework for addressing all forms of abuse faced by a number of groups in society. The Act was designed to ensure protection from all types of abuse, afford help and treatment, provide shelter and social, psychological and health care, ensure that appropriate statutory measures are taken to bring to account and punish perpetrators and spread awareness of the social effects of abuse. The implementing regulations, issued by Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Development no. 43047 (9 March 2014), contain a number of mechanisms for implementing the provisions of the Act.

Unemployment Insurance Act

7. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 18 (13 January 2014), the Act guarantees compensation to unemployed workers in accordance with specific rules until they are able to return to work.

Psychological Health Care Act⁴

8. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 56 (17 July 2014) the Act seeks, under article 2, to regulate and improve psychological care for the mentally ill, secure their rights, safeguard their dignity and protect their families and society.

Child Protection Act⁵

9. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 14 (25 November 2014), the Act protects persons under the age of 18 from abuse and neglect. Article 2 affirms the provisions of Islamic sharia law, statutory law and the international conventions to which the Kingdom is a party which safeguard the rights of the child and provide protection from all forms of abuse and neglect. It stresses the need to educate and spread awareness of the rights of the child, particularly with regard to protection from abuse and neglect. The implementing regulations, issued by Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Development no. 56386 (5 April 2015), contain detailed provisions concerning implementation of the Act.

Associations and Non-governmental Organizations Act⁶

10. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 8 (1 December 2015), the Act seeks to regulate, develop and protect non-governmental activity, contribute to national growth, promote citizen participation in community management and development, foster the culture of voluntary work among members of society and achieve social solidarity. The Act charges the Minister of Labour and Social Development with licensing and promoting the development of associations and organizations, providing them with government support and fostering the culture of voluntary work in society. To simplify procedures, article 8 states that an application to establish an association shall be made by not less than ten Saudi natural or corporate persons (previously the minimum number was 20). The Minister of Labour and Social Development shall respond to an application within 60 days from the date of completing the application procedures. Failure to respond within this period shall be tantamount to approval.

Crimes of Terrorism and Terrorism Financing Act⁷

11. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 21 (1 November 2017), the Act defines the crime of terrorism and related procedural aspects, including arrest, detention, provisional release, appointment of legal counsel and the courts which are competent to hear terrorism cases. The Act defines crimes and punishments.

Audio-Visual Media Act⁸

12. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 33 (13 December 2017) the Act, in article 5, prohibits actions designed to provoke strife, division and hatred among citizens, incite violence, threaten the peace of society and disrespect others.

Prevention of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the Rights and Duties of Sufferers Act

13. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 41 (3 January 2018) the Act, in articles 2 and 3, classifies HIV/AIDS as a contagious disease and seeks to protect the rights of those living with the disease, ensuring that they receive proper care and rehabilitation and are able to continue to exercise their rights to education and work. The Act requires health authorities to provide sufferers with health care, counselling, and psychological support, while respecting their rights.

Anti-Harassment Act

14. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 97 (31 May 2018), the Act is designed to prevent and combat the crime of harassment, punish offenders and protect victims. It seeks to maintain the privacy, dignity and personal freedom of the individual guaranteed by sharia and statutory law.

Juveniles Act⁹

15. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 113 (31 July 2018), the Act contains the provisions and measures necessary for dealing with juvenile delinquents, including stop and search, arrest, investigation and prosecution, in a manner appropriate to their age; it also provides for behavioural assessment. The Act seeks to safeguard the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system.

Royal orders, supreme orders and decisions of the Council of Ministers**Supreme Order no. 35362 (30 July 2013)**

16. The Order approves the guidelines for the Comprehensive Access Programme, on adapting the urban environment to enable persons with disabilities to integrate in society and live an independent life.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 82 (6 January 2014)

17. The Decision approves the Housing Subsidy Act which, together with its implementing regulations, is designed to promote the right to housing.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 418 (25 August 2014)

18. The Decision provides for the formation of the Saudi Health Council, the body responsible for regulating hospitals run by ministries and government bodies and ensuring that these bodies work in coordination to deliver health care, paramedical and medical evacuation services, secure the supply of medicines and medical supplies, develop the health environment and study and evaluate the standard of health service provision.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 308 (25 April 2016)

19. The Decision approves Saudi Vision 2030 and requires the Council of Economic and Development Affairs to formulate and monitor the mechanisms and procedures to implement this vision. It further requires ministries and other government bodies — each in its own sphere of competence — to take the necessary measures for implementation.

Supreme Order no. 27808 (15 March 2017)¹⁰

20. The Order requires a study to be conducted into domestic violence and the best ways of dealing with issues of guardianship and custody, to include review of the relevant legislation with a view to proposing amendments thereto and preparation of a manual on general domestic violence issues and custody. The Order also requires programmes to be held for judges across the country, in partnership with stakeholders.

Supreme Order no. 33322 (18 April 2017)¹¹

21. The Order allows women to access all government services and conclude their business without being required to obtain the approval of another person. It further supports the launch by the Human Rights Commission of educational programmes on the international conventions to which the Kingdom has acceded, as part of a comprehensive women's rights awareness plan.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 289 (11 April 2016)

22. The Decision approves a new charter for the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, under which its powers are defined and measures put in place to ensure that it operates in coordination with law enforcement agencies.

Royal Order no. 240 (17 June 2017)¹²

23. The Order renames the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, which becomes the Public Prosecution Service, reporting directly to the King and accorded complete independence in the performance of its duties.

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 679 (7 August 2017)

24. The Decision approves the charter of the Alimony Fund, designed to ensure that alimony is paid on time. Under the law, a woman is entitled to alimony on the basis of a judicial order but rulings have only been enforced in cases of impoverishment. Under article 4 of the Decision, a divorced women whose claim is still before the court can receive alimony from the Fund on a temporary basis until a ruling is issued.

Supreme Order no. 905 (26 September 2017)¹³

25. The order authorises application of the Traffic Act and its implementing regulations, providing for driving licences to be issued to men and women on a basis of equality.

Principal acts amended

Criminal Procedure Act¹⁴

26. The updated Criminal Procedure Act, promulgated pursuant to Royal Decree no. 2 (25 November 2013), requires an accused person to be informed of his rights (article 4). The Act promotes the principle of presumption of innocence. Article 34 requires law enforcement officers to take the statement of an arrested person immediately. If there is sufficient evidence against him, the suspect is sent with the recording clerk to the investigator, who must question him within 24 hours then order his release, unless there is sufficient evidence to charge him with a serious offence or it is in the interests of the investigation to detain him. The Act explicitly states that an accused has the right to call upon defence counsel during the investigation and trial stages. If he lacks the financial ability to engage an attorney, the accused may ask the court to appoint one for him, at State expense. The Act and its implementing regulations clarify this matter. The Act allows a judge to postpone or suspend implementation of sentence, if the convict's character, past behaviour, age, personal circumstances, circumstances surrounding the crime or other factors persuade him to do so. The implementing regulations, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 142 (21 Rabi I, 1436 AH), contain details.

Labour Law¹⁵

27. Royal Decree no. 46 (25 March 2015) approved the amendment of several articles of the Labour Law, promulgated pursuant to Royal Decree no. 51 (27 September 2005). Amendments include the following: an employer must display work regulations in a prominent place in the establishment or inform those subject to them of these regulations by other means (article 13); an employer may not transfer a worker from his original place of work to another place, requiring a change of residence (article 58); and a worker shall not work more than five consecutive hours without a break for rest, prayer and meals of not less than half an hour each time, during working hours (article 101).

Regional and international human rights instruments¹⁶

28. Two human rights instruments — the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights — are currently being studied by a high-level governmental committee with a view to accession. Under article 5(4) of its charter, the Human Rights Commission may express an opinion on international human rights instruments and accession thereto. The Kingdom became a party to the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (no. 138) pursuant to Royal Decree no. 37 (28 April 2013).

National plans and policies designed to protect and promote human rights¹⁷

29. Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015) approved the formulation of a national human rights strategy for the Kingdom, embracing all the basic principles designed to protect and promote human rights and consistent with the principles of Islamic sharia law, the Basic Law of Governance and other laws, as well as the regional and international human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. Several regional and international declarations, programs and action platforms were consulted with regard to the Kingdom's obligations. A committee consisting of governmental and non-governmental bodies is currently engaged in drafting the strategy. The strategy contains six themes: the legal framework, institutional capacities, civil society, business sector, culture of human rights and regional and international cooperation. These will generate a set of goals, programmes and initiatives addressing all human rights.

30. The national action plan to combat crimes of trafficking in persons (2017–2020) is one of the measures designed to prevent and protect against human trafficking.

31. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 227 (23 January 2018), the national water strategy is designed to ensure continued access to sufficient quantities of safe water under normal and emergency conditions, improve demand management for all uses,

provide high quality water and waste water services at affordable prices, safeguard water resources and improve water use, while protecting the local environment.

32. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 439 (1 May 2018), the food security strategy and implementation plan seek to achieve five strategic goals: development of a system of sustainable local food production with competitive advantage, achieving diversity and stability of external sources of food, ensuring access to safe food within the Kingdom, encouraging healthy and balanced nutritional habits and building capacities to address food security risk.

33. Adopted pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 454 (8 May 2018), the national strategy for the environment is designed to help improve quality of life, foster compliance with environmental regulations, achieve the maximum degree of adaptation to climate change, support research to develop environmentally friendly technologies, adopt the highest professional and moral standards in the management and operation of the environmental and meteorological sectors, comply with international treaties and encourage civil society organizations to participate in environmental protection.

(b) The institutional framework

34. In the period covered by the report, a number of institutional frameworks concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights were created. These are responsible for implementing and monitoring relevant laws and regulations and the conventions to which the Kingdom is a party and promoting judicial and administrative redress. The most important of these institutions are as follows:

Education Evaluation Commission¹⁸

35. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 94 (27 November 2016) approved the regulatory arrangements for the Education Evaluation Commission, a body with independent corporate personality, enjoying administrative and financial independence. The Commission's basic function is to conduct educational evaluation in order to raise the quality and efficiency of education and support national economic development by improving quality of output.

Justice Training Centre¹⁹

36. The Justice Training Centre was established pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 162 (24 February 2014) within the organizational structure of the Ministry of Justice, with the aim of raising the efficiency and level of qualification of judges and court staff.

Saudi Bar Association²⁰

37. The charter of the Saudi Bar Association regulation, adopted pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 317 (27 April 2015), contains a number of provisions designed to boost the role of lawyers in promoting and protecting human rights.

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre²¹

38. Established on 13 May 2015, the King Salman Centre is dedicated to international humanitarian aid and relief. The Centre operates a range of programmes designed in accordance with the most up-to-date global models to extend the vital aid and relief programmes the Kingdom delivers, helping to relieve the suffering of societies experiencing humanitarian crises and enabling them to lead a decent life. The Centre seeks to consolidate the Kingdom's relief operations overseas and coordinate the activity of governmental and non-governmental relief agencies.

39. Since its establishment, the Centre has been able to implement 439 projects, in collaboration with 124 international partner organizations and local institutions covering 12 humanitarian sectors in 40 countries around the world.

General Authority for Awqaf

40. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 11 (8 December 2015), the Authority seeks to regulate religious endowments in such a way as to promote their role in economic and social development and social solidarity, thus reflecting positively on the human rights situation.

General Authority for Culture²²

41. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016) and with its charter issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 120 (14 November 2017), the Authority is responsible for promoting the cultures of different groups in society.

General Authority for Entertainment

42. Established pursuant to Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016), the Authority is responsible for entertainment-related activity, thereby helping to promote a number of human rights.

General Sports Authority

43. Paragraph (9) of Royal Decree no. 133 (7 May 2016) changed the name of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare to "General Sports Authority". The Authority is concerned with sport-related matters.

Family Affairs Council²³

44. The Council was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 443 (25 July 2016) and tasked with responsibility for family affairs. Article 6 of its charter requires a number of technical committees to be formed, including a committee for childhood, committee for the elderly and committee for women. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 14 (26 September 2017) added a new subparagraph to article 3(1) of the charter of the Family Affairs Council, on the formation of the Council, adding two members specialising in geriatrics. Among the committees formed by the Council is a family protection committee.

Authority for the welfare of persons with disabilities²⁴

45. Under its charter, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 266 (13 February 2018), the Authority delivers care for persons with disabilities and ensures they obtain their disability-related rights. It seeks to improve the services provided by government agencies to the disabled, help them access essential care and rehabilitation, raise the level of prevention, define the role of each agency concerned with the welfare of persons with disabilities and, to this end, cooperate and coordinate with stakeholders to ensure that the necessary measures are taken.

Saudi Intellectual Property Authority

46. Adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 496 (29 May 2018), the Authority's charter gives it responsibility for intellectual property activity in the Kingdom.

IV. Promoting and protecting human rights on the ground**(a) The judiciary²⁵**

47. The period covered by the report saw many positive developments, reflecting State interest in the judiciary. These include the promulgation and updating of several pieces of legislation (Criminal Procedure Act, Sharia Court Procedure Act, Board of Grievance Procedure Act); enhanced independence of the Public Prosecution Service, according its work a judicial capacity; and establishment of a number of institutions (e.g. the Saudi Bar

Association), which have helped to develop the statutory and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights by enshrining judicial rights and guarantees.

48. Royal Order no. 20 (29 November 2014) commanded the formation of a committee to prepare a draft code of judicial rulings on matters of Sharia law relevant to the judiciary, arranged by topic under the headings of Islamic jurisprudence.

49. The start made on establishing specialised courts represents a positive development in respect of the consolidation of judicial bodies. It has been announced that three commercial courts are to be opened, in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam, as well as specialized commercial chambers and appeal chambers within the general court system in several cities.

50. The Justice Training Centre has been created within the organizational structure of the Ministry of Justice with the aim of raising the efficiency and level of qualification of judges and court staff. Since its creation, the Centre has organized numerous training programmes for judges and lawyers, including courses on the application of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. A total of 880 judges and lawyers have received training in human rights from the Centre since its creation in 2016.

51. Judicial principles are the concern of the Supreme Court, established under the Judiciary Act promulgated by Royal Decree no. 78 (1 October 2007). Such principles are designed to improve the consistency of judicial judgement and support codification. In 2017, a tome was published containing 2,323 judicial principles and rulings in all areas relevant to the judiciary, collected over the years from 1391 AH to 1437 AH (1971 CE to 2016 CE).

52. As part of the national transformation programme initiatives, the Ministry of Justice has organized many culture of justice exhibitions under the slogan, "Knowledge and enrichment" in cities across the Kingdom. Exhibitions feature four platforms, including: "e-services", providing information on key services of the Ministry; "laws", covering the laws pertaining to women, children and the family; and "knowledge", which seeks to increase awareness and provide information on personal status issues.

53. In collaboration with civil society organizations, including the Mawadda Association for Divorce Reduction, the Ministry of Justice offers free legal advice. Women's offices have been opened in courts, staffed by qualified female legal advisors, providing free rights-related services.

54. Regarding international cooperation and exchange of expertise, the Ministry of Justice is currently studying 30 unratified conventions and memoranda of understanding, plus 12 previously ratified conventions, memoranda of understanding and executive programmes, promoting cooperation with certain States in the fields of legal services, exchange of expertise, cooperation in the provision of legal aid and launch of a number of training programmes.

(b) Criminal justice²⁶

55. A number of criminal justice measures have been taken, including promulgation of Royal Order no. 20 (29 November 2014), concerning the preparation of a draft code of judicial rulings (see paragraph 48, above).

56. The Public Prosecution Service has begun installing closed circuit television cameras in interview rooms to ensure that due process is observed when questioning suspects. Furthermore, the Public Prosecution Service has issued a circular stating that case documents must show that suspects have been informed of their rights by members of the Service and that indictments contain reference to the concepts of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party. The General Directorate of Prisons has created a human rights department and the offices set up inside prisons for oversight bodies to receive complaints from prisoners and detainees have been given an enhanced role.

57. The laws of the Kingdom affirm the principle of public trial. Thus article 154 of the Criminal Procedure Act stipulates: "Court hearings shall be public. The court may, in exceptional circumstance, hear the case or part thereof in camera or may prohibit certain groups from attending the hearings for reasons of security or maintenance of public morality or if it is deemed necessary for determining the truth." Article 181 (1) states: "The verdict, after being signed by the judge(s) who delivered it, shall be read in open court." The Criminal Procedure Act affirms the right of an accused to engage an attorney and to ask the court to appoint an attorney for him, if he lacks the financial ability (see paragraph 26).

58. The laws of the Kingdom contain provision for victims of human rights abuses to receive compensation. This is one of the Kingdom's principles of justice. The Criminal Procedure Act guarantees the victim, his lawyer or heirs the right to bring a criminal action and allows the victim of the crime to demand a private right of action during the investigation stage. The Act states that those who have suffered damage as a result of a crime may claim a private right of action during the investigation stage of the case. The Act further states that those who have suffered damage as a result of a crime may claim a private right of action during the trial stage. Furthermore, article 215 of the Criminal Procedure Act states that a person who has suffered damage as a result of false accusation or extension of a term of imprisonment or detention beyond the stipulated period has the right to claim compensation before the court which heard the original case.

59. As regards combatting torture and abuse, Royal Decree no. 43 (17 November 1958) and several other related laws, such as the Criminal Procedure Act, Protection from Abuse Act, Child Protection Act and the Convention against Torture (which became part of national law upon the accession of the Kingdom thereto), complement one another to build a strong statutory framework guaranteeing prevention and protection from crimes of torture and abuse and ensuring that victims receive redress in the form of rehabilitation, assistance, compensation etc.

60. A further achievement in abuse prevention has been the creation of a special centre at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to receive reports of domestic violence on one consolidated telephone number (1919), working around the clock. Furthermore, a committee of government bodies has been formed to prepare a reference manual on the investigation and documentation of crimes of torture and the provision of victim assistance, based on the *Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (the Istanbul Protocol).

61. The Juveniles Act clarifies the statutory measures to be taken when dealing with juveniles. Article 5 states that a juvenile can only be arrested in the presence of his parent/legal guardian unless caught red-handed, in which case the parent/legal guardian is to be notified immediately. Article 7 allows a juvenile to be detained for questioning only if the public prosecutor believes that interest so requires. In all cases, a juvenile may only be held in a Ministry of Labour and Social Development-run institution. Article 11 states that a juvenile may only be questioned in the presence of his parent/legal guardian, a social worker or specialist, or his lawyer. Article 12 requires the institution to prepare a social report on the juvenile and to keep the court regularly informed of his situation. Article 15 states that, if the crime committed by the juvenile is punishable by death, the sentence shall be reduced to a term of not more than 10 years detention in the institution.

62. An example of best practice in promoting criminal justice has been the creation of the "Window of communication" website (www.nafethah.gov.sa). This allows persons detained in security cases to study case information and provides them with ways of communicating digitally with their families and submitting petitions and complaints.

63. The death sentence is only handed down for the most serious crimes and under strict conditions. It requires a final verdict to be delivered by a competent court, after all trial proceedings before all levels of court have run their course. Cases are heard by 13 judges in all, beginning with the court of first instance, consisting of three judges. Even if it has not been appealed by any of the parties, the verdict of the court of first instance is then put before the court of appeal, where it is considered by a panel of five judges. The verdict must then be put before the Supreme Court for consideration by another five judges. If the

Supreme Court upholds the verdict, all stages of trial will have been completed, whereupon the public prosecutor shall supervise execution of sentence, ensuring proper execution and the absence of any impediment that may cause execution to be halted or postponed.

(c) Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism²⁷

64. The Kingdom has taken every opportunity to affirm the incompatibility of terrorism, extremism and fanaticism with the principles and objectives of Islamic sharia and to declare terrorist acts to be criminal acts which must be punished and deterred. The security forces have successfully prevented numerous acts of terrorist violence and thwarted many heinous terrorist plans, while demonstrating due regard for human rights. The alertness of citizens and residents who have played their part in the fight against terrorism by reporting suspicious behaviour is applauded.

65. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue, which plays an important role in spreading moderation and promoting tolerance and coexistence, has launched numerous projects designed to achieve its goals. These include the Tibyan Project on combating extremism, which seeks to spread the values of moderation, tolerance and repudiation of all forms of extremism.

66. The Ideological War Centre was established with a mandate to address the roots of extremism and terrorism and secure a true understanding of Islam. The Centre's terrorism prevention and deradicalization programmes have enabled young people around the world to fortify themselves against the blandishments of terrorism. The goals of the Centre include: formulating a deep-rooted understanding of the problem of extremism by studying its underlying causes, understanding the tools and methods used by extremist groups, identifying the social groups targeted by terrorist groups and cooperating effectively with national and global organizations.

67. At regional and international levels, the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology ("Itidal"), inaugurated on 21 May 2017 by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, is one component of the institutional framework for fighting terrorism. Working in collaboration with related international organizations, the Centre monitors and analyses extremist ideology in order to confront it and protect against it.

(d) Promoting integrity and fighting corruption²⁸

68. Under Royal Order no. 38 (4 November 2017) a higher committee to fight corruption was formed, chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and with a membership consisting of the Chairman of the Control and Investigation Board, Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, President of the General Auditing Bureau, the public prosecutor and head of the Presidency of State Security. It represents a radical reform, designed to eradicate corruption and protect public funds, in the process achieving substantial economic benefits in the form of restoration to the treasury of unlawfully acquired public funds, promotion of investor confidence and encouragement of investment in the Saudi market.

69. The National Centre for Performance Measurement ("Aadaa") was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 3 (6 Muharram 1437 AH). The Centre measures the performance indicators of public bodies, applying standard models, methods and tools to boost efficiency and effectiveness. It publishes periodic reports on the achievement of the strategic goals of public bodies, the status of performance indicators and the progress of initiatives to realise Saudi Vision 2030. The Centre also measures customer satisfaction with the delivery of public services.

(e) Combating human trafficking²⁹

70. The promulgation of the Trafficking in Persons Act, accession to the conventions and protocols on combating human trafficking, formation of an anti-trafficking committee bringing together representatives of relevant government bodies and creation of a department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to combat crimes of trafficking in persons have all contributed to the development of a statutory and institutional framework that guarantees protection from crimes of trafficking in persons for everyone, without discrimination, the provision of medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims, payment of compensation for damages and other forms of redress. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has allocated a single consolidated telephone number (19911) to take complaints in eight languages, including complaints relating to trafficking in persons.

71. Work is currently underway on implementing the National Plan to Combat Crimes of Trafficking in Persons (2017–2020) and a number of training activities and programmes, designed to raise the level of national anti-trafficking capacities, have been organized for judges, members of the Public Prosecution Service, the police and other law enforcement officers, psychologists, social workers and employees and staff of civil society organizations. The list of achievements also includes working in cooperation with regional and international States and organizations to conclude bilateral agreements on employment and activities and events to combat transnational organized crime, including crimes of human trafficking.

72. Royal Decree no. 109 (18 July 2017) approved a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation between the Kingdom, represented by the Human Rights Commission, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The memorandum is designed to promote cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking, provide victims with care, protection and shelter and develop programmes and activities to build national capacities.

(f) Civil society³⁰

73. The Civil Associations and Organizations Act represents a well-developed statutory framework, featuring a number of social and development goals. This and related acts guarantee the diversity and independence of civil society organizations. As a result of the support they receive, the number of non-governmental associations and organizations in the Kingdom rose to 1,121 by the end of March 2018. Most of these have some connection to human rights or particular aspects thereof. In 2017, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development provided more than 700 million riyals in subsidies. Two boards have been formed, one for associations and the other for NGOs and permission has been given to set up family funds. The period for deciding whether or not to approve an application for a licence has been set at 60 days. Civil society organizations work in partnership with the relevant bodies to prepare and monitor implementation of bills and draft regulations and assist with the publication of reports on human rights.

(g) Freedom of opinion and expression³¹

74. The laws of the Kingdom guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, on which there are no restrictions save those stipulated by law and the need to respect the rights and reputation of others, protect national security and safeguard public order, public health and public decency. Furthermore, freedom of opinion and expression does not include making propaganda for war, promoting national, racial or religious hatred or inciting discrimination, aggression or violence. The publication of numerous print and online newspapers, the creation of two independent authorities — one for radio and television and the other for the audio-visual media — the appearance of a host of television channels and radio stations operating in many languages and the ease of use of social media all demonstrate an ever-widening space for expression and a growing number of ways of exercising this right. Enjoying independence in its choice of topics and pursuits, the King

Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue provides a suitable environment for discussing many of the problems and issues that citizens have. This represents a real development.

(h) Serving and caring for the Two Holy Mosques¹²

75. The Kingdom devotes considerable attention to the Two Holy Mosques, mobilising all the resources necessary to serve them and the pilgrims. The Kingdom is currently witnessing the largest expansion of the Two Holy Mosques in the history of Islam, at a cost of more than 70 billion riyals (the equivalent of 18 billion US dollars). The expansion will double capacity and enable pilgrims (of whom there were some 2.5 in 2017) from all over the world to perform their rites and observances with ease and confidence. Furthermore, major infrastructure projects have been completed in Makkah, Madinah and the holy sites, supporting a large network of multi-service facilities. In addition to the expansion of the Two Holy Mosques, projects include expanded pilgrim accommodation in central areas of Makkah and Madinah, launch of the "Mashair Railway" linking the holy sites, construction of the Jamarat Bridge, completion of the airport and pilgrim terminal expansions and improved transport, health and cleansing services, as well as other essential logistic services for pilgrims.

76. Under article 24 of the Basic Law of Governance, the Kingdom is responsible for maintaining and servicing the Two Holy Mosques and providing security and care for pilgrims to enable them to perform the rites and observances of the major pilgrimage (*hajj*), minor pilgrimage (*umrah*) and visit to the Prophet's Mosque (*zayarah*) with ease and confidence. Accordingly, the Kingdom spares no effort to enable Muslims from around the world to perform the pilgrimage rites without discrimination, regardless of political or ideological considerations. It is worth noting that pilgrimage visas are issued by 96 embassies and 18 consulates and that pilgrimage missions have been opened in countries with which the Kingdom has no diplomatic relations. In addition, the Kingdom has taken measures to enable Muslims, whose governments place bureaucratic obstacles in the way of groups coming to the Kingdom, to perform the pilgrimage.

(i) Education and training¹³

77. The importance the Kingdom attaches to education has resulted in a number of rapid developments and reforms, focusing on education for all, equality of opportunity, free education, equality in education, curriculum development, teacher performance, school administration, school buildings and equipment, tools and methods of measurement and evaluation, educational guidance and counselling, visually, aurally and intellectually impaired students, autistic students and compulsory schooling for students with disabilities.

78. Qualitative and quantitative indicators reflect this ongoing development. In 2017, the net enrolment rate in primary education was 98 per cent. There were 38,368 schools serving 6,230,108 male and female pupils, representing a fourfold increase in numbers since 1980; they were taught by 537,147 male and female teachers. There were 28 public universities and 29 private universities and colleges with 1,485,915 male and female students. Some 152,172 students of both sexes were studying on scholarship at universities abroad. To upgrade their academic qualifications, special programmes have been launched for teachers of both sexes, offering scholarships to study at Saudi universities and at universities abroad. In 2017, a total of 912 were studying on scholarship either in-Kingdom or overseas. There were 1,798 literacy and adult education centres.

79. At 192 billion riyals (51 billion US dollars), the education and training sector¹⁴ received the largest share of the 2018 State budget.

80. Pursuant to Ministerial Decision no. 89263 (11 July 2017), an initiative was launched by the Ministry of Education, enabling female students to take physical education classes. The initiative aims to construct and equip 500 gymnasiums each year to promote the health of female students.

81. The Lifelong Education Initiative ("Istadama") is a national development initiative that strives to eradicate illiteracy and enable individuals to take advantage of a range of educational and training opportunities. The initiative targets adults of both sexes in the 15–50 age group.

82. To ensure that the population in areas close to the Kingdom's southern border, who have suffered outrages committed by Iranian-backed Houthi militias, continue to have access to education, an educational support centre was established for schools in the southern border area, pursuant to Ministerial Decision no. 84328 (29 December 2015). The centre seeks to ensure continuity of teaching on the basis of a range of alternative options including, for example, the launch of a virtual school project, from which 44,000 students in 5 education departments have benefitted.

83. There are 45 technical and vocational colleges in the Kingdom, 15 of which offer bachelor's programmes. Some 22,417 male and female students graduated from these colleges in 2017. Some 12,924 male and female students benefitted from the vocational training programme for public school students in 2017. Approximately 24.2 per cent of all secondary school graduates were from technical and vocational training schools.

84. The Kingdom is engaged in humanitarian and relief work in the education sector at regional and international level, providing aid to support educational institutions and programmes and help for those affected by crises to continue their education. The Kingdom has provided a total of approximately 16 billion riyals in aid to support educational and cultural programmes.

(j) Health care³⁵

85. Efforts continue to improve the delivery of health services on the basis of need, observing the principle of equality. There are several areas of focus, including maternal and child care, immunization programmes, health care for the disabled, the elderly and students, psychological health, health care for victims of accidents, emergencies and disasters, epidemic and infectious disease control, palliative care, organ transplant and other components of a comprehensive health care system and support infrastructure.

86. By 2016, the number of primary health care centres across all regions and governorates of the Kingdom had reached 2,450, delivering primary care, treatment for chronic diseases and maternal and child care. They have received more than 52 million visits.

87. The Kingdom has adopted a number of measures to promote reproductive health. As a result, average female life expectancy at birth rose to 76.3 and the rate of maternal mortality fell to 12 per 100,000 live births in 2017. Approximately 99.7 per cent of deliveries in 2017 were carried out under the supervision of trained medical staff, while, in 2016, some 98 per cent of pregnant women received professional health care. The Ministry of Health has launched a telephone helpline service (937) to receive patient complaints and provide medical consultancy 24 hours a day.

88. A raft of measures has been taken to raise the level of knowledge and competence of medical staff, with a focus on boosting training entry levels and the continuous development of courses and training methods. There were 81,434 male and female students enrolled in university medical and health colleges in 2017 and 21,658 studying overseas.

89. In 2017, the Saudi Patient Safety Centre was established. This is the national authority for all matters relating to patient safety and prevention of medical error. The Centre will seek to formulate a national strategy for patient safety in line with the health sector initiatives of the National Transformation Programme.

90. The experience and expertise in mass gathering medicine acquired over decades by the Kingdom as a result of delivering free health care to pilgrims provided the impetus for the foundation of the Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine. The Centre is a world authority in the field of mass gathering medicine.

(k) Employment³⁶

91. The projects associated with Saudi Vision 2030, particularly NEOM, the Red Sea Project and various industrial schemes, will provide a wide range of job opportunities for large numbers of young Saudi men and women and unemployment rates are expected to decline gradually in the coming years. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has launched a number of initiatives designed to protect and promote the right to work, at the forefront of which are the Saudization of jobs programme ("Nitaqat1") and supplemental programme "Nitaqat 2"; the social security programme, designed to cover and protect Saudi workers in the private sector against occupational hazards; and the Wage Protection System, designed to ensure regular payment of the wages agreed between worker and employee. The e-recruitment system ("Jadar.h"), launched by the Ministry of Civil Service, is a national platform for public sector recruitment.

92. The allocation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of a single consolidated telephone number (19911), able to receive complaints from migrant workers in eight languages, represents an advance in the fair treatment of workers. Two other programmes representing an advance in the situation and treatment of migrant workers are the "Your employment advisor" programme, launched on the Labour Education website, and the Wage Protection System, ensuring that wages are paid on time through local banks.

93. A large number of measures designed to promote the rights of domestic service workers have been adopted. These include awareness-raising measures introduced by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Human Rights Commission, National Society for Human Rights and other civil society organizations, measures adopted by the anti-trafficking committee to monitor the underlying causes of crimes of exploitation and measures taken by the Ministry of Labour and Human Rights Commission to ensure oversight. They also include improved mechanisms of overseas recruitment, oversight and control of recruiters and protection and support mechanisms.³⁷

(l) Right to development³⁸

94. The inclusive nature of Saudi Vision 2030 and the programmes and initiatives it has given rise to, all of which are consistent with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, represent a qualitative advance in national development. Furthermore, the Kingdom seeks to raise standards of living, combat poverty in all its forms and improve the delivery of services.

95. Particular achievements have been to ensure access of all children, both boys and girls, to education, reduce the mortality rate of children under the age of five, reduce rates of maternal mortality, reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and make progress in enabling women to participate in the job market.

96. An example of best practice in this area has been the introduction of the "Citizen's account" programme to help families address the expected direct and indirect effects of economic reform by redirecting government benefits to needy groups. Supreme Order no. 24535 (22 February 2017) approved the method of calculating the absolute poverty line and measuring the extent of poverty in the Kingdom.³⁹

97. Adoption of the National Environmental Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 454 (8 May 2018), National Water Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 227 (23 January 2018) and National Food Security Strategy pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 439 (1 May 2018) are just some of the key measures adopted to achieve sustainable development.

(m) Women and children**Women's rights⁴⁰**

98. Most of the reforms and developments in the period covered by the report have been concerned with the promotion and protection of women's rights and the empowerment of

women. This is reflected in the quantity and quality of the measures taken and the results achieved. Many measures have been taken to empower women and promote gender equality within the framework of Islamic sharia law. These include the codification of judicial rulings on personal status matters, to which reference has already been made; the issuance of Supreme Order 33322 (18 April 2017), allowing women to access government services and conclude their business without being required to obtain the approval of another person (see paragraph 21, above); the appointment of 30 women to the Consultative Council, representing 20 per cent of members; granting women the right to vote and stand as candidates in municipal elections; the appointment of six women to the board of the Human Rights Commission; the appointment of Saudi women to senior positions, such as deputy minister, university principal and chair of the board of directors of several companies, including the Saudi Stock Exchange ("Tadawul"). As such, women now occupy decision-making positions in the public and private sectors.

99. A number of decisions have been taken to promote the judicial rights of women, including:⁴¹

- Introduction of the Alimony Fund (see paragraph 24, above);
- Issue of the marriage certificates in two copies, one for each spouse;
- Granting women a notary's licence, giving some of the powers of a notary public.

100. The creation of the Family Affairs Council, which has assigned responsibility for women's affairs to one committee and for family protection to another, is a significant development of the institutional framework to protect and promote the rights of women and the family. The Women's Affairs Committee has begun holding consultation workshops to review key laws relating to women. Additionally, the Council has approved a mechanism to formulate a national strategy for women.

101. The promulgation of the Protection against Abuse Act,⁴² its implementing regulations and associated executive measures represents a guarantee to combat all forms of violence against women (see paragraph 6, above).

102. In 2016, the complaints centre became operational. The centre receives reports of domestic violence (see paragraph 60, above), on the strength of which the public prosecutor brings a criminal action under article 17 of the Criminal Procedure Act. If he believes it is in the public interest to do so, the public prosecutor investigates crimes involving a private right of action.

103. Regarding woman's right to freedom of movement, Supreme Order no. 905 (26 September 2017), authorising implementation of the Traffic Act and its implementing regulations, provides for driving licences to be issued to men and women on a basis of equality. To prepare for women driving cars in the Kingdom, the General Directorate of Traffic licenced five driving schools for women across the country, while advanced level driving schools have been opened in collaboration with the universities. Furthermore, 21 centres across the country have been established for female holders of foreign driving licenses who wish to exchange them for Saudi licenses. The Supreme Order has been implemented and women began driving cars on 24 June 2018.

104. A number of initiatives have been launched across the country to empower women economically. These include the "Qurrat" programme to support childcare services for working women; the "Wusul" programme to provide transport for working women; the "Self-employment support" program, which widens opportunities for women to increase their income using the skills they have; and the "Part-time working" and "Remote working" programmes to enable women to balance work and family life. There are also empowerment programmes in rural and remote areas designed to encourage women to enter the job market.

105. There has been a marked increase in the proportion of women working in the law, as court attorneys, public prosecutors and lawyers, on an equal footing with their male colleagues. Instructions have been issued by the Public Prosecution Service requiring female lawyers to be treated the same as their male counterparts, enabling them to study

their clients' case papers and be present when clients are questioned, in accordance with article 70 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

106. There has also been a marked rise in the proportion of women working in government service. Numerous programmes have been developed to expand female employment opportunities, in collaboration with the Human Resources Development Fund, General Organization for Social Insurance and the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation and in partnership with employers. A total of 2,033,668 women were in employment in the first quarter of 2018, compared with 2,008,233 in the first quarter of 2017. The number of Saudi women working in the private sector rose to 559,814 in the first quarter of 2018, representing approximately 32 per cent of Saudis employed in the private sector. The aim of Saudi Vision 2030 is to increase female participation in the job market from 22 per cent to 30 per cent by 2030, achieving a 3 per cent increase in non-oil GDP.

107. Article 34 of the standard model employment regulations sets out the general rules on equal pay for work of equal value, which include a prohibition on any form of discrimination between male and female workers in respect of equal pay for work of equal value. It is worth noting that the Kingdom is a party to the International Labour Organization Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).

108. To the Kingdom's achievements in women's rights might be added the following: adoption of the Mother and Child Health Passport, designed to track the health of mother and child from pregnancy and birth until the age of five; application of the developed prenatal care model and distribution of literature thereon, amended in accordance with World Health Organization standards; and establishment of the National Observatory for Women, a centre of excellence attached to the King Abdullah Institute for Research and Consulting Studies at King Saud University. The Observatory tracks the participation of Saudi women in development programmes and their growing involvement in NGOs. Note that Saudi women make up 25 per cent of the founding members of the National Society for Human Rights and can be found on the board of banks, chambers of commerce and the Saudi Council of Engineers. Furthermore, there has been a rise in the number of charities founded and managed by women.

109. Saudi businesswomen feature prominently on global lists and rankings. They organize workshops across the Kingdom to promote women's rights and play a prominent role in the activities of the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue and the cultural dialogue sessions it organizes. They are also involved in implementing action programmes to improve the delivery of services for women, including family security mechanisms, productive family programmes, motherhood programmes, sport and leisure programmes and programmes to help families with limited income develop their own resources and transition from dependency to productivity.

110. Forced marriage is forbidden by Islamic sharia law, which holds that a marriage can only be concluded with the woman's consent. Sharia law prohibits a woman being prevented from marrying or forced into marriage against her will. A woman may not be prevented from marrying a man who meets the lawful conditions for marriage. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue conducted a study in partnership with stakeholders and civil society organizations, which showed that the number of women entering into forced or early marriage continues to decline. The study gave rise to a set of proposals, containing a number of measures and guidelines. Note that article 16 (3) of the implementing regulations for the Child Protection Act stipulates that, before the contract of marriage can be concluded, it must be ascertained that the marriage of a person under the age of 18, whether male or female, shall not cause harm and shall be in the best interests of that person.

111. The human rights awareness and instruction programmes organized by stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Information and Human Rights Commission, are designed to correct the sort of false impressions that can lead to discrimination against women. The Council of Senior Scholars strives to correct these ideas by publishing statements in the media and on its social media accounts and by the appearance on television and radio of Council members. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs,

Dawah and Guidance plays an important role in this regard, through its preachers and imams.

Rights of the child⁴³

112. The Kingdom has made remarkable progress in promoting respect for, protection of and fidelity to the rights of the child and has adopted a range of measures designed to improve the statutory and institutional frameworks. These include promulgation of the Child Protection Act and Juveniles Act, creation of the Family Affairs Council and formation of its children's affairs committee, and adoption of the Ministry of Health strategy on childhood and motherhood care for the next ten years, pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 320 (7 September 2009). The strategy provides for prevention and treatment at all stages of a child's growth and development, from the embryonic stage (focusing on genetic diseases) up to maturity. It also seeks to improve kindergarten provision to ensure that a child's intellectual and physical talents are identified and nurtured.

113. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 152 (29 Rabi II 1437) gives responsibility for all matters relating to kindergartens for children in the age group 3 to 6 to the Ministry of Education. This includes the issue of the licences necessary to operate and manage kindergartens.

114. Growing NGO interest in childhood is a reflection of civil society's concern with children's rights. Achievements in this field include: the improved identification and nurturing of gifted children by the King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity and various Ministry of Health and civil society initiatives; improved delivery of education and health services to children with disabilities; increased interest by educational institutions in childhood behaviour; and a rise in the number of social upbringing programmes designed to implant sound values and behaviour in the minds of young children, protect them from the temptations of delinquency and combat extremist ideas.

115. A number of programmes and projects focusing on childhood have been launched,⁴⁴ including a project to extend kindergarten and nursery provision to cover the entire country and modernise early childhood programmes and activities.

116. As regards combating violence against children, the Ministry of Education has launched the "Rifq" programme to reduce violence in schools by various means, principally by making students, staff and parents/guardians aware of the causes and forms of violence, helping staff and parents/guardians to acquire the appropriate educational tools to address and reduce violence and providing guidance counsellors with the tools for the early detection and treatment of violent behaviour.

117. A single consolidated toll-free helpline (116111) has been introduced to support children under the age of 18 subjected to types of abuse, neglect or exploitation at home or at school, in the neighbourhood, in public places or government or private institutions and offer them on the spot, specialised counselling. The child support line is a member of Child Helpline International.

(n) Rights of persons with disabilities⁴⁵

118. State concern with the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is evident from the many measures adopted in this area. These include the creation of an authority for the care of persons with disabilities; guaranteed access to disability-related rights; improved delivery of government services for the disabled; the issuing of a supreme order adopting guidelines for the Universal Access Programme, putting in place an urban environment to enable persons with disabilities lead an independent life and integrate in the community; the creation of the King Salman Centre for Disability Research, which is at the forefront of research into the causes, avoidance and treatment of disability; and the establishment of the King Salman Award for Disability Research, which has helped promote research into

disability care, improve the delivery of services for persons with disabilities and ensure commitment to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

119. In addition to the above, there has been an increase in the number of disability rehabilitation centres, with 38 Government-run and 187 private centres providing day care. Furthermore, disability rights associations are making their presence increasingly felt. Note that there are 7,816 disabled persons in comprehensive rehabilitation centres and 16,507 enrolled in private day care centres. Some 445,824 cases have benefited from the 5.2 billion riyals of financial assistance allocated for this purpose.

120. Concerted efforts have been made by the Kingdom to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas — economic, social and cultural — to enable them to become partners in development and a number of programmes and measures have been implemented in several fields. Thus, in the field of health, preventive, treatment and rehabilitation services are provided, including genetic counselling, and a range of tests are conducted to ensure early detection of disease; infants most at risk of disability are registered at birth and monitored and the health authorities are notified accordingly. Courses for health workers and accident responders are held to help improve their performance in assisting and treating the injured. Some 22 support offices have been opened in health facilities to provide logistic services for persons with disabilities and make these facilities disability-friendly.

121. In education, the Ministry of Education partially integrates some students with disabilities, placing them in special classrooms attached to its schools, and wholly integrates others by placing them in the same classrooms as their non-disabled peers. Educational support and rehabilitation is provided to ensure that they keep up with their peers in all classes. Assistive devices, such as hearing aids, vision aids and wheelchairs, are provided free of charge. Educational materials are provided for the blind, including textbooks printed in Braille and audiobooks; the textbooks approved for use in public education are adapted for use by the deaf. Sign language is used to communicate with deaf students.⁴⁶

122. A special education initiative, involving development of a national strategy document for the teaching of persons with disabilities, was launched by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Education Evaluation Commission, a number of charities and King Salman Centre for Disability Research.

123. The Prince Sultan Centre for Special Education Support Services is an integrated centre that seeks to provide a first-class service for children suffering from learning difficulties that prevent them from enrolling in ordinary or special needs schools. The Centre carries out assessment, evaluation and diagnosis at government schools and kindergartens then develops an appropriate treatment plan for the individual child in accordance with his/her needs with a view to returning the child to his/her natural environment at school or home as an independent individual, able to interact with others.

124. The Ministry of Education adopted the concept of inclusive education and began putting it into practice in public education schools at the beginning of school year 2015–2016. This serves students with disabilities by promoting implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁴⁷

125. In the field of employment and social welfare, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development launched the “Tawafuq” programme, designed to employ Saudis with disabilities; provide them with an appropriate work environment; encourage private sector enterprises to recruit and train persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing their level of performance; provide financial assistance for families looking after a person with disabilities; and create and subsidise organizations and centres that provide care and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities.

(o) Disseminating and teaching the culture of human rights⁴⁸

126. Advances in the dissemination and teaching of the culture of human rights include implementation of a number of educational and training programmes, workshops and lectures, as well as online and television campaigns covering various aspects of human rights. The involvement of influential figures in the community in programs relating to children, women, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, has been particularly rewarding. The educational authorities in the Kingdom are keen to disseminate the culture of human rights and their efforts were crowned with the issue of Supreme Order 13084 (18 January 2015), instructing the Human Rights Commission, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, to mainstream human rights in the higher education curriculum and take action to create a separate human rights major in the appropriate faculties.

127. Numerous training activities and programmes have been launched under the memorandum of understanding signed in 2012 between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Between 2014 and 2018, more than 36 activities and programmes for judges, members of the Public Prosecution Service, lawyers, health practitioners and law enforcement officers, were implemented to raise awareness of the human rights conventions to which the Kingdom has become a party and explore how best to implement their provisions.

128. On 14 December 2017, the Human Rights Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education, launching the human rights e-learning portal, under the slogan "My nation is the protector of my rights", designed to inform students of their rights and disseminate the culture of human rights.

129. As part of its communication strategy, the Ministry of Information established the Centre for Government Communication to promote integration and coordination between government agencies and the media, keep abreast of developments and keep pace with the Kingdom's comprehensive renaissance. One of the Centre's key tasks is to provide support for information departments in government agencies.

130. By posting statutory provisions relating to human rights and duties on their websites and social media accounts, government bodies — each in its own sphere of competence — help to disseminate the culture of rights among those who visit such sites. Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 713 (22 August 2017) concerns the posting of relevant bills, rules, regulations and decisions on the websites of government bodies to enable interested parties to comment and express their views thereon.

131. The King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue launched the "Salam" project for cultural communication, designed to highlight and convey a sense of the Kingdom's developments and achievements in a number of areas. Two offshoot initiatives have been launched: the Salam programme to qualify young leaders for global dialogue and the Salam short film competition. Both initiatives focus on supporting, qualifying and empowering young people to engage in dialogue and communication in international circles and furthering the role of the Kingdom in promoting coexistence and diversity and building global peace.

(p) Implementing human rights conventions and cooperating with regional and international mechanisms⁴⁹

132. The Kingdom is a party to five major United Nations human rights conventions: the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is also a party to three optional protocols: the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

133. By virtue of the Kingdom's accession thereto, these conventions have become part of national law and the Kingdom's obligations thereunder have the same legal force as other statutory laws. The legal instrument of accession to these conventions (the royal decree) is the same as that under which the country's other laws are promulgated, in accordance with article 70 of the Basic Law of Governance, which stipulates: "Laws, international treaties and agreements, and concessions shall be issued and amended by royal decrees". Furthermore, article 11 (1) of the procedures for concluding international conventions, promulgated by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 287 (26 July 2010), states that, once a convention has come into force, the appropriate bodies are required to take the measures necessary for implementation to ensure that the Kingdom meets all its obligations arising from accession.

134. The Kingdom has sought to meet its obligations under these conventions and ensure that implementation is monitored by the relevant governmental and judicial bodies, principally the various branches of the judiciary. Its charter, issued pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 207 (12 September 2005), gives the Human Rights Commission a mandate to monitor government bodies to ensure application of the international human rights instruments to which the Kingdom has acceded and ensure that these bodies are taking proper measures for enforcement. These efforts were crowned by the formation, pursuant to Supreme Order no. 13084 (18 January 2015) of the standing committee responsible for preparing the Kingdom's reports on human rights conventions. One of the committee's tasks is to monitor recommendations emanating from treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.

135. Regarding the procedural requirement to submit treaty reports, the Kingdom has submitted all its national reports on the human rights conventions⁵⁰ to which it is a party on time.

136. Working in collaboration with the Human Rights Council, the Kingdom actively participated in the first and second rounds of the Universal Periodic Review in 2009 and 2013, respectively, and has made considerable progress in implementing the recommendations received and endorsed during those rounds. Further to paragraph 4 (a) under "Methodology followed in preparing the report", the Human Rights Commission included the recommendations received and endorsed during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review in its annual report and conducted an assessment of implementation on the ground. Implementation of these recommendations is a qualitative indication of the progress achieved by the Kingdom in the protection and promotion of human rights.

137. The Kingdom cooperates with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, responding in a meaningful way to the questions and inquiries of the two special rapporteurs and working in accordance with the Council's complaints procedure. Issues are dealt with in an objective and wholly independent manner and investigated by a national body established pursuant to Supreme Order no. 2775 (13 March 2010). The Kingdom has extended invitations to a number of substantive mandate holders to visit the country, including the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, who visited in January 2017 and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, who visited from 30 April to 4 May 2017. The reports of the two special rapporteurs were studied to benefit from their remarks on the promotion and protection of human rights.

V. Compliance with the applicable rules of international humanitarian law

138. The Kingdom is keen to comply fully with the provisions and rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. As such, it affirms that all military operations by the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen are conducted in a manner fully consistent with those provisions and rules. Coalition forces are anxious not only to spare the civilian population, particularly women and children, and civilian objects from the effects of the armed conflict but have assumed responsibility for protecting them from the

gross abuses committed by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias, including indiscriminate attacks, killing, torture, forced evacuation and disappearance, blockade and the use of child soldiers.

139. The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen has put in place strict rules of engagement consistent with the provisions and rules of international humanitarian law, including a number of mechanisms and procedures to prevent targeting errors. The Coalition investigates all allegations of the targeting of civilians, civilian facilities and humanitarian organizations and announces the results of these investigations at press conferences.

140. The Coalition accords maximum importance to humanitarian relief in Yemen and coordinates activity with international organizations. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre is working in partnership with a number of domestic and international organizations and institutions to implement a raft of projects and programmes, including a project to tackle the cholera epidemic caused by the damage done by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias to the environmental and health facilities which would have helped prevent the spread of the disease. The Centre has also launched a number of programmes to rehabilitate child soldiers conscripted by Iranian-backed Houthi armed militias, as well as support projects for Yemeni women and families. In addition, the Centre has launched nutrition, medical, health and environmental projects to address the impact of the shortage of food and medicines and raise the capacity of the health services to support the human right to food and medicine within a framework of standards free of any discrimination or prejudice.

141. Under the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen, announced by the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, the Kingdom has contributed 465 million US dollars of financial aid through the United Nations to cover programmes implemented by various United Nations organizations. At the same time, it has contributed 35 million dollars to support infrastructure projects in Yemen.

VI. National priorities and initiative

142. The Kingdom affirms that it is committed to achieving the highest levels of human rights protection and promotion and accomplishing sustainable development goals on the basis of the principles of Islamic sharia, the statutory laws of the land and its obligations under regional and international human rights conventions, paying due attention to the observations and recommendations made by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review and in the light of the plans and policies designed to achieve the country's goals, at the forefront of which is Saudi Vision 2030. To this end, the Kingdom shall strive to overcome the challenges standing in the way of protecting and promoting human rights by taking the necessary legislative and institutional measures, increasing the effectiveness of general implementation measures, raising rights awareness, boosting the involvement of civil society and promoting regional and international cooperation on human rights. Furthermore the Kingdom shall strive to develop enhanced qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure progress made in protecting and promoting human rights.

Conclusion

143. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that this report represents a brief review of the most significant measures adopted to protect and promote human rights, in a manner consistent with the guidelines on report preparation. Despite all it has accomplished, the Kingdom still aspires to greater achievements in the field of human rights through its various agencies and under the active direction of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Notes

- ¹ التوصية (222).
- ² التوصيات (جزء من 32، 60، 63).
- ³ التوصيات (56، 70، 112، 134، 135، 143).
- ⁴ التوصية (187).
- ⁵ التوصيات (30، 31، 44، 74، 115، 135).
- ⁶ التوصيات (جزء من 46، 47، 48، 49، 51، 52، 53، جزء من 54، 172).
- ⁷ التوصيات (216، 217).
- ⁸ التوصية (117).
- ⁹ التوصيات (جزء من 45، 155، 156).
- ¹⁰ التوصيات (56، 70، 74، 112، 134، 135، 136، 143، 157).
- ¹¹ التوصيات (31، 57، 92، 93، 95، 96، 98، 100، 101، 102، 103، 105، 106، 107، 108، 112، 113، 162، 115، 114).
- ¹² التوصيات (141، 142).
- ¹³ التوصيات (102، 110، 111).
- ¹⁴ التوصيات (27، 28، جزء من 37، جزء من 39، جزء من 43، جزء من 45، 141، 142، 145، جزء من 148، 153).
- ¹⁵ التوصيات (64، 116، 182، 194، 197، 198، 199، 200، 201، 203، 207، 208، 210، 211، 212، 214، 213).
- ¹⁶ التوصيات (1، 3، جزء من 7، جزء من 9، جزء من 10، 11، 12، 17، 18، جزء من 19، جزء من 20، جزء من 23).
- ¹⁷ التوصيات (64، 75، 80).
- ¹⁸ التوصيات (30، 215).
- ¹⁹ التوصيات (69، 141، 142، 146).
- ²⁰ التوصيات (141، 142).
- ²¹ يستند مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية في عمله على عدد من المراكز، منها، مواصلة نهج المملكة في مد يد العون للمحتاجين على مستوى العالم، وتقديم المساعدات للفئات المتضررة بعبء عن أي دوافع غير إنسانية، والتنسيق والتشاور مع المنظمات والهيئات العالمية، وتطبيق جميع المعايير المهنية المتبعة في البرامج الإغاثية، وتطوير الشراكات الفاعلة مع المنظمات والهيئات العالمية الرائدة في العمل الإنساني لضمان الاستجابة العاجلة للتعامل مع الأزمات الإنسانية، وضمان استدامة أثر المساعدات الإنسانية المقدمة عبر تحسين ومتابعة مخرجات البرامج الإغاثية.
- ²² التوصية (185).
- ²³ التوصيات (30، 44، 57، 68، 74، 93، 98، 113، 114، 115، 177، 184، 185، 186، 191).
- ²⁴ التوصيات (134، 215).
- ²⁵ التوصيات (جزء من 37، جزء من 39، جزء من 41، 141، 142، 146، 150).
- ²⁶ التوصيات (جزء من 40، جزء من 41، جزء من 42، جزء من 43، جزء من 45، جزء من 124، جزء من 125، جزء من 126، 139، 140، 144، 145، 147، 148، 149، 151، 153، 155، 156).
- ²⁷ التوصيات (217، 218، 220).
- ²⁸ التوصيات (72، 159، 160).
- ²⁹ التوصيات (44، 72، 116، 131، 132، 133، 213).
- ³⁰ التوصيات (جزء من 46، جزء من 47، 48، 49، 51، 52، 53، 54، 59، 63، جزء من 137، جزء من 175).
- ³¹ التوصيات (49، 52، 53، 117، 154، 170).
- ³² التوصيات (166، 167).
- ³³ التوصيات (30، 64، 98، 184، 187، 189، 190، 191، 192، 215).
- ³⁴ تضمنت المؤشرات التعليمية لعام (2017م) بقطاعه العام والعالي ما يلي: معدل طالب/معلم: (11)، نسبة المباني المستأجرة: (24%)، مؤشر التكافؤ بين الجنسين في الالتحاق بالتعليم: (1، 02)، نسبة مشاركة التعليم الأهلي (17.9%)، نسبة الطلبة الخريجين في مرحلة البكالوريوس: (91%)، نسبة المقبولين في الجامعات الحكومية من إجمالي خريجي الثانوية: (64%).
- ³⁵ التوصيات (184، 187، 188).
- ³⁶ التوصيات (73، 116، 158، 182، 194، 196، 197، 198، 199، 200، 201، 202، 203، 204، 205، 206، 207، 208، 209، 210، 211، 212، 213، 214).
- ³⁷ تم اتخاذ العديد من التدابير الرامية إلى تعزيز حقوق العاملين في الخدمة المنزلية ومن أبرزها: تطوير البات الاستقدام، وذلك بتأهيل مكاتب وشركات الاستقدام، من خلال التدريب على صور الاتجار بالأشخاص، والتعريف بالمعايير الخاصة بممارسة النشاط، والتأكد من امتثاله للشركات للمعايير المطلوبة للحصول على التراخيص، والتنسيق مع سفارات الدول التي تم إبرام اتفاقيات تعاون معها، وتطوير الرقابة والإشراف على الممارسين، حيث تم إطلاق برنامج (مسند) للعملة المنزلية وهو نظام إلكتروني يربط إجراءات توظيف العامل في الخدمة المنزلية من بلده إلى أن يغادر المملكة بعد انتهاء العقد بشافافية ووضوح، وذلك بمشاركة الجهات المعنية داخل المملكة وخارجها، كما تم أتمتة الإجراءات الموثقة للعملة المنزلية من بداية دخولها للمملكة حتى انتهاء العقد، وحفظ حقوقهم من خلال بطاقة الرواتب، وإلزام أصحاب العمل ببرنامح حماية الأجور، ومراقبة السداد، وتوثيق العقود والرواتب، وضمان الحقوق، وتقديم الدعم والحماية للعملة المنزلية، وتطوير البات الدعم والحماية، حيث تم إضافة إلى إطلاق الرقم الموحد لتقديم البلاغات، إصدار الكتيبات والمطبوعات التي تعرّف العامل في الخدمة المنزلية بإجراءات الانتصاف عند انتهاك أي من حقوقه بما في ذلك الآلية المختصة بتلقي البلاغات، وطرق الحصول على المساعدة القانونية والترجمة.

38. التوصيات (29، 185، 186، 215، 221).
39. صدر الأمر الملكي رقم (86/أ) وتاريخ 1439/4/18 هـ الموافق (5 يناير 2018م) القاضي بصرف بدل غلاء معيشة شهري للمواطنين من الموظفين المدنيين والعسكريين، وإضافة بدل غلاء معيشة للمعاش التقاعدي، وإضافة بدل غلاء معيشة للمخصص الشهري لمستفيدي الضمان الاجتماعي، وزيادة مكافأة الطلاب والطالبات من المواطنين بنسبة (10%)، وتحمل الدولة ضريبة القيمة المضافة عن المواطنين المستفيدين من الخدمات الصحية الخاصة، والتعليم الأهلي الخاص، وكذلك تحمل الدولة ضريبة القيمة المضافة عما لا يزيد عن مبلغ (850.000 ريال) من سعر شراء المسكن الأول للمواطن.
40. التوصيات (31، جزء من 32، 33، جزء من 34، جزء من 35، 55، 56، 57، 58، 64، 68، 70، 71، 74، 75، 92، 93، 94، 95، 96، 97، 98، 99، 100، 101، 102، 103، 105، 106، 107، 108، جزء من 109، 110، 111، 112، 113، 114، 115، 134، 135، 136، 138، 143، 152، 157، 162، 163، 176، 177، 178، 179، 180، 181، 183، 184، 187، 189، 190، 191، 192، 215).
41. من القرارات التي اتخذت لتعزيز حقوق المرأة المتصلة بالقضاء: زيادة نسبة المحاميات بنسبة 10% حيث ارتفع عددهن إلى 304 محامية، وإطلاق دبلوم المحاماة لتقديم التأهيل المنتهي بمنح رخصة مزاولة المهنة، وإنشاء مراكز خاصة لتنفيذ أحكام الحضانة من أجل توفير بيئة نموذجية يسودها الجو الأسري والأمني والصحي والترفيهي، بمشاركة إحدى مؤسسات المجتمع المدني في المسلك، ومنح المرأة حق الولاية على المحضون مما يسهل عليها الحصول على الخدمات من الجهات المختلفة، واستحقاق أسرة المتغيب أو المفقود والأسرة المهجورة أو المعقلة لمعاش الضمان الاجتماعي، وتعديل لائحة نظام التنفيذ التي نصت على حق الحضانة للأم خلال فترة التقاضي وأن يكون تنفيذ قضايا الحضانة أو الزيارة في بلد الحضانة أو الزيارة المنصوص عليه في السند التنفيذي، والتنفيذ الفوري لأحكام النفقة أو روية الطفل المحضون أو تسليمه لحاضنته، وإنشاء مكاتب نسوية في محاكم الأحوال الشخصية لخدمة المرأة محققاً بالمشاركة مع إحدى مؤسسات المجتمع المدني، وصدر تعميم رئيس المجلس الأعلى للقضاء رقم ت/١٠٤٩ وتاريخ ١٤٢٩/٧/٢٠ هـ الموافق (٨ مارس ٢٠١٧) المتضمن أحقية الأم بإثبات حضانة أبنائها دون حاجتها إلى رفع دعوى قضائية في محاكم الأحوال الشخصية بذلك في الحالات التي يثبت عدم وجود خصومة أو نزاع بينها وبين والد المحضونين.
42. صدرت اللائحة التنفيذية لنظام الحماية من الإيذاء متضمنة عدداً من الآليات التنفيذية لأحكام الواردة في النظام، ومن أبرزها: التزام كل جهة عامة أو خاصة بإبلاغ وزارة العمل والتنمية الاجتماعية أو الشرطة عن حالات الإيذاء التي تطلع فيها فور العلم بها، وإنشاء مركز لتلقي البلاغات يقوم باستقبال البلاغات عن حالات الإيذاء، والتعامل الفوري مع البلاغات من خلال التواصل مع الحالة وتقييم وضع الحالة من حيث الخطورة، وإجراء التقييم الطبي لها إذا لزم الأمر واتخاذ جميع الإجراءات اللازمة والمناسبة للتعامل مع الحالة، والتأكد على أقسام الشرطة وغيرها من الجهات الأمنية المختصة الاستجابة الفورية لطلب وحدة الحماية الاجتماعية بدخول أي موقع، وتوفير الحماية الكاملة للمختصين من وحدة الحماية وللحالة.
43. التوصيات (30، 31، 44، 74، 115، 135، 187، 215).
44. تشير الإحصاءات لعام 2017م إلى أن عدد مدارس رياض الأطفال قد بلغ (3272) مدرسة، وبلغ عدد الطلاب والطالبات في مرحلة رياض الأطفال (267270) طالباً وطالبة، وبلغ عدد الأطفال (14971) طفلاً في (1518) حضنة. كما تم إطلاق برنامج تنقيف الأم والطفل، لدعم الأم في رعاية وتربية أطفالها ومساعدتها على اكتسابهم المهارات الأساسية (العقلية، والبدنية، والعاطفية، والاجتماعية) بما يتوافق مع خصائصهم بعمر الخمس سنوات، حيث تم تحقيق 95% من المؤشر ECERS بالإضافة إلى برنامج تجويد البيئات في رياض الأطفال باستخدام مقياس المطلوب.
45. التوصيات (134، 215).
46. صدر قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (534) وتاريخ 1436/12/29 هـ الموافق (12 أكتوبر 2015م) بشمول الطلاب من ذوي الإعاقات الجسمية والصحية بالمكافآت المقررة لطلاب التعليم الخاص، ومضاعفة مكافأة التربية الخاصة لتشمل (14) حالة من الإعاقات الجسمية والصحية.
47. تم إطلاق برنامج "ميسر" وهو برنامج تعليمي لذوي النكاه العدي بدأ العمل به مع بداية العام الدراسي 1437هـ/1438م الموافق (2017م/2018م). كما قامت وزارة التعليم بطرح مبادرة تعنى بتقديم الخدمات التعليمية للطلاب المقيمين في مراكز الأورام والمستشفيات، وذلك بالتعاون (5) فصول دراسية وبرنامج التدخل المبكر (20) روضة من رياض الأطفال الحكومية في (5) إدارات تعليمية.
48. التوصيات (61، 62، 65، 66، 67، 78، 79، 90).
49. التوصيات (76، 81، 82، 83، جزء من 84، جزء من 85، 87، جزء من 88، جزء من 223، 224).
50. التقارير التي حل موعد تقديمها وقدمتها المملكة إلى هيئات المعاهدات: تقرير المملكة الجامع لتقاريرها من (الرابع وحتى التاسع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (9) من الاتفاقية الدولية للقضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز العنصري، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (95) للجنة القضاء على التمييز العنصري التي عقدت خلال المدة من 23 أبريل إلى 11 مايو 2018م، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (8) من البروتوكول الاختياري لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل المتعلق باشتراك الأطفال في النزاعات المسلحة، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (12) من البروتوكول الاختياري لاتفاقية حقوق الطفل المتعلق ببيع الأطفال وبغاء الأطفال واستغلال الأطفال في المواد الإباحية، وتقرير المملكة الجامع للتقاريرين (الثالث والرابع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (18) من اتفاقية القضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (69) التي عقدت خلال المدة من 12 فبراير إلى 3 مارس 2018م، وتقرير المملكة الثاني المقدم وفقاً للمادة (19) من اتفاقية مناهضة التعذيب وغيره من ضروب المعاملة أو العقوبة القاسية أو اللاإنسانية أو المهينة، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (57) للجنة مناهضة التعذيب التي عقدت خلال المدة من 18 أبريل إلى 31 مايو 2016م، وتقرير المملكة الأول المقدم وفقاً للمادة (35) من اتفاقية حقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة، وتقرير المملكة الجامع لتقريرها (الثالث والرابع) المقدم وفقاً للمادة (44) من اتفاقية حقوق الطفل، وقد تمت مناقشته في الدورة (73) للجنة حقوق الطفل التي عقدت خلال المدة من 13 إلى 30 سبتمبر 2016م.

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Compilation on Saudi Arabia**Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights****I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies^{1,2}

2. Saudi Arabia was invited by several treaty bodies to become a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;³ the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;⁵ the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;⁶ and International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination requested Saudi Arabia to withdraw its broad reservation to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.⁸ Saudi Arabia announced that it was considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and lifting its reservation under article 20 of that treaty.⁹

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and withdrawing the general reservation made to the Convention.¹⁰ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and withdraw its general reservation and its reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention.¹¹ The Committee against Torture encouraged Saudi Arabia to make the declaration under article 22 of the Convention against Torture.¹²



4. Several treaty bodies urged Saudi Arabia to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹³ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Saudi Arabia to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.¹⁴

5. The Committee against Torture encouraged Saudi Arabia to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.¹⁵

6. Saudi Arabia contributed financially to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) annually, including to the torture and slavery funds in 2016 and 2017.¹⁶

III. National human rights framework¹⁷

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination took note of the amendments in 2016 to grant the Human Rights Commission more independence, but regretted that was not yet in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).¹⁸ Several treaty bodies recommended that Saudi Arabia bring the Human Rights Commission into line with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient human and financial resources to effectively and independently discharge its mandate.¹⁹

8. The Committee against Torture welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights, whose activities included monitoring places of detention; however, despite measures reinforcing its independence, the Committee remained concerned that the Commission was subject to the authority of the executive branch, did not have independent funding and lacked unhindered access to all places of detention.²⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that the National Society for Human Rights was an independent monitoring mechanism compliant with the Paris Principles.²¹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the creation, in 2016, of the Council for Family Affairs.²²

9. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism encouraged the Government to introduce specific compulsory training programmes for law enforcement officials, investigators, prosecutors, judges and medical personnel on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol).²³

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination²⁴

10. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about persisting discriminatory laws, the lack of comprehensive non-discrimination legislation and the absence of the grounds of sex and gender in the equality guarantee under article 8 of the Basic Law of Governance.²⁵ It recommended that Saudi Arabia examine existing laws and regulations in order to dissociate the provisions deriving from religion from those falling within the scope of traditions and customs; repeal all remaining discriminatory provisions in its national legislation; amend the Basic Law of Governance; and adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that included a definition of discrimination against women.²⁶ It also called upon the Government to adopt

the bill on combating discrimination and hatred.²⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended enacting comprehensive domestic legislation prohibiting direct and indirect racial discrimination, including all prohibited grounds of discrimination.²⁸

11. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that children of Saudi mothers and non-Saudi fathers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, children with disabilities, children born out of wedlock, children of migrant workers and children belonging to Shia and other religious minorities continued to be subjected to persistent discrimination. It urged Saudi Arabia to eliminate *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination on any grounds against all children,²⁹ and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate the stigma attached to children born out of wedlock.³⁰

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights³¹

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption in 2016 of the State's Vision 2030 and the tenth development plan covering the period 2015–2019.³² It recommended the adoption of a national strategy to support gender equality and the empowerment of women, and a related plan of action.³³

13. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights was concerned about the lack of transparency about poverty and the associated challenges, as the Government needed to have a clearer understanding of the nature and extent of the problem and accurate data were indispensable to evaluate the anticipated and actual impact of Vision 2030 policies on the poor.³⁴

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism³⁵

14. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the 2014 counter-terrorism law contained an extremely broad definition of terrorism, which would enable the criminalization of some acts of peaceful expression. That law also allowed the detention of individuals for up to 90 days without access to family members or legal counsel, depriving them of legal safeguards against torture. The Committee urged Saudi Arabia to revise the definition of terrorism so that the criminalization provisions could not serve as a basis for prosecuting individuals engaged in non-violent expression and advocacy, especially in defence of human rights, and that it revise the law so that it did not facilitate the practice of incommunicado detention.³⁶ The Special Rapporteur on terrorism recommended reviewing the 2014 counter-terrorism law to ensure that the provisions complied with basic principles of due process and a fair trial.³⁷ He recommended urgently reviewing the definition of terrorism in the counter-terrorism law to bring it into line with international human rights norms, and to refrain from using antiterrorism and other forms of national security legislation to stifle peaceful political dissidence, criticism or non-violent protest.³⁸

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person³⁹

15. The Committee against Torture was deeply concerned about the continued existence of the death penalty and the growing number of executions. The Committee encouraged Saudi Arabia to establish a moratorium on executions and to commute all existing death sentences.⁴⁰

16. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed its deepest concern about persons who had been sentenced to death and executed for offences allegedly committed when they were under the age of 18.⁴¹ It urged Saudi Arabia to immediately halt the execution of people who were minors at the time of the alleged commission of an offence; commute the death sentences issued against children; amend legislation to prohibit the imposition of the death sentence on children; and immediately release children sentenced to death for the exercise of their right to freedom of opinion and expression.⁴²

17. The same Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were deeply concerned at information that Saudi Arabia, through its

military operation in Yemen, had committed grave violations of the rights of children, women and girls.⁴³ The latter Committee was also concerned about the damage inflicted to the environment in Yemen by the military operation.⁴⁴ The two committees urged Saudi Arabia to respect international humanitarian law; allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief for civilians in need; and establish an international independent body to investigate allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Yemen.⁴⁵ The Special Rapporteur on terrorism reminded Saudi Arabia of its obligation to ensure that a fact-finding investigation, independent of the chain of command involved in the strike, was conducted in any case in which there were reliable indications that civilians might have been killed or injured, and to make the results public. He called upon the Government to ensure that such investigations were conducted in every case and the true civilian death toll made public.⁴⁶

18. In a 2018 report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict, the Secretary-General noted that the situation in Yemen remained grave, with 842 verified cases of the recruitment and use of boys as young as 11 years old. He was encouraged by efforts undertaken by the Government of Saudi Arabia to support the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups in Yemen, and reminded all parties to abide by their obligations under international law to protect children from all forms of violence.⁴⁷

19. The Committee against Torture was concerned that current legal provisions did not define the crime of torture as required by the Convention, and regretted the absence of clear legal provisions in the Basic Law of Governance ensuring the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. It urged Saudi Arabia to revise national legislation in that regard.⁴⁸ The Committee and the Special Rapporteur on terrorism were deeply concerned that torture and ill-treatment were commonly practised in prisons and detention centres by law enforcement officials, including to extract confessions. They recommended that the Government investigate all allegations, prosecute the perpetrators and train all relevant officials.⁴⁹ The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed serious concern that some legislation authorized the ill-treatment and torture of children; that interrogation techniques amounting to torture were authorized and frequently used to coerce juveniles into signing confessions; and that children could be sentenced to life imprisonment and solitary confinement. It urged Saudi Arabia to unambiguously prohibit solitary confinement and life sentences for children, and the attendance of children at public executions.⁵⁰ The Committee against Torture urged the Government to establish an accessible confidential complaint mechanism for detainees,⁵¹ and recommended including in domestic legislation explicit provisions on the right to redress for victims of torture and ill-treatment.⁵²

20. The Committee was deeply concerned that Saudi Arabia sentenced individuals to and imposed corporal punishment, including flogging/lashing and amputation. It urged Saudi Arabia to abolish any form of corporal punishment.⁵³ The Committee particularly requested that Saudi Arabia review the case of the blogger, Ra'if Badawi, and other individuals to invalidate any aspect of their sentences involving corporal punishment.⁵⁴ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the country to repeal all legislative provisions authorizing the stoning, amputation and flogging of children.⁵⁵

21. While welcoming the draft law aimed at addressing overcrowding by using alternatives to imprisonment, the Committee against Torture was concerned about overcrowding and poor conditions in some detention facilities. It urged Saudi Arabia to alleviate overcrowding, through alternative measures to imprisonment, and to guarantee the principle of non-discrimination in according all required rights to persons in detention.⁵⁶

22. The Committee was concerned at reports that the majority of persons deprived of their liberty were in pretrial detention.⁵⁷ OHCHR was concerned about the continuing arrests and apparently arbitrary detentions of human rights defenders and activists, including women's rights activists. OHCHR urged Saudi Arabia to reveal the locations of those activists, to ensure their rights to due process guarantees and, if their detention was related solely to their work as human rights defenders and activists, to release them immediately. OHCHR also expressed concern about the detention and disappearances of other individuals, without explanation or apparent due process.⁵⁸ In a joint statement, United Nations experts also urged Saudi Arabia to immediately release women's human

rights defenders arrested in a nationwide crackdown. Reports indicated that a number of those arrested faced extremely serious charges, carrying penalties of up to 20 years in prison. The experts also reiterated their concern over others detained in Saudi Arabia on the basis of their activism and the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association, including Ra'if Badawi.⁵⁹

23. The Committee against Torture was concerned about the reported existence of secret places of detention and the absence of an independent institution to undertake regular and unannounced visits to all places of detention.⁶⁰ It urged Saudi Arabia to strengthen the independence of the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution from the Ministry of the Interior, and to ensure the regular monitoring of all places of detention by an independent institution.⁶¹

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law⁶²

24. The Committee was concerned about the reported lack of independence and impartiality of the judiciary, since judges were appointed and discharged by the King. It also regretted the absence of women in the judiciary. The Committee urged Saudi Arabia to ensure a fully independent and impartial judiciary, and to make the judiciary more gender sensitive, including by appointing women judges.⁶³

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that judges ruled on the basis of their personal interpretation of religion.⁶⁴ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that sharia courts harmonize their norms, procedures and practices with international human rights standards.⁶⁵

26. The Committee against Torture was concerned about the lack of independence of the Specialized Criminal Court established to try cases of terrorism and urged Saudi Arabia to strengthen its independence.⁶⁶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saudi Arabia to ensure that no person who was a child at the time of committing an alleged offence was tried before the Specialized Criminal Court.⁶⁷

27. The Committee against Torture was concerned that coerced confessions were admissible evidence in the courts. It urged Saudi Arabia to ensure that coerced confessions were inadmissible in law and in practice, except when invoked as evidence against a person accused of torture.⁶⁸

28. The Special Rapporteur on terrorism was concerned that allegations of torture or other forms of ill-treatment made by terrorism suspects, lawyers and human rights defenders did not systematically result in rapid and independent investigations.⁶⁹

29. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women referred to persisting barriers to women's access to justice and recommended implementing measures in that regard.⁷⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child observed that girls were highly discriminated against in the justice system, and urged Saudi Arabia to address the violation of girls' rights in that regard.⁷¹

30. The Committee was also concerned about the absence of a comprehensive legal framework on children in conflict with the law. It recommended that Saudi Arabia build a system of restorative and rehabilitative juvenile justice in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁷²

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life⁷³

31. The Committee recommended that Saudi Arabia eliminate all forms of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief; promote religious tolerance and dialogue in society; ensure the free practise of religion without undue State interference; and ensure that private religious gatherings were not arbitrarily raided.⁷⁴

32. The Committee urged Saudi Arabia to repeal laws and regulations that broadly restricted freedom of opinion and expression, including the vaguely defined offences of "apostasy", "insulting God or the Prophet" or "corrupting the Earth", for which children could be condemned to severe sentences, including the death penalty.⁷⁵

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned that women's freedom of association was impeded by lengthy registration procedures and that associations were prohibited from working on political and human rights issues. It recommended amending the Law on Associations and Foundations to ensure an enabling environment in which civil society could be freely established and engaged in political and public life.⁷⁶ The Committee against Torture was extremely concerned that Saudi Arabia had refused to grant operating licences to human rights organizations and about reports indicating that it had punished individuals who had reported on alleged human rights violations or who had objected to State policies. It urged Saudi Arabia to acknowledge the legitimacy of peaceful criticism and human rights advocacy, and to release any individual detained solely on that basis.⁷⁷ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saudi Arabia to allow human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without threats or harassment.⁷⁸ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was particularly concerned that women human rights defenders had reportedly been subjected to harassment, violence, intimidation, detention and ill-treatment. It recommended that Saudi Arabia refrain from any reprisals against women human rights defenders, and ensure that they were able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association.⁷⁹

34. The Special Rapporteur on terrorism strongly condemned the use of counter-terrorism legislation against individuals peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, as well as freedom of religion or belief and freedom of peaceful association and assembly. The Special Rapporteur urged Saudi Arabia to establish an independent national mechanism to identify all individuals who were currently serving sentences of imprisonment based on acts that constituted the exercise of their fundamental freedoms and to commute or pardon all such prisoners with immediate effect.⁸⁰

35. UNESCO noted that the Basic Law of Governance provided no explicit principle of freedom of expression and that there was no freedom of information law.⁸¹ It encouraged Saudi Arabia to introduce freedom of information legislation, decriminalize defamation in accordance with international standards and ensure that the broadcast licensing authority was independent and that there was judicial oversight in cases related to the blocking of online content.⁸²

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery⁸³

36. The Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed initiatives to combat trafficking in persons.⁸⁴

37. The latter Committee was concerned that victims of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution were reportedly sometimes arrested, detained and deported. It recommended that Saudi Arabia effectively enforce the Anti-Trafficking Act; investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons; adopt adequate mechanisms for the early identification and referral of victims of trafficking; and provide women victims with adequate protection and redress.⁸⁵ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations recommended that Saudi Arabia step up efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons and provide protection and assistance to victims.⁸⁶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saudi Arabia to effectively enforce the prohibition on the use of trafficked children as camel jockeys.⁸⁷

38. Noting that thousands of children, many of them victims of trafficking, lived and worked on the streets in Saudi Arabia and were subjected to forced labour by criminal gangs, the same Committee urged the Government to immediately stop the arbitrary arrest and deportation of such children, and to release those currently detained. It also recommended adopting a comprehensive strategy so that children in street situations had access to education and health services.⁸⁸

39. The ILO Committee of Experts observed that the Labour Code did not contain any specific provisions prohibiting forced labour and that employers that imposed forced labour

were only punished with a fine. It urged Saudi Arabia to impose fully adequate and strictly enforced penalties for such cases.⁸⁹

5. Right to privacy and family life⁹⁰

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the use of sharia law to explain the lack of progress on family law reform and the continued application of discriminatory legal provisions relating to personal status, particularly the requirement for a woman to obtain her guardian's permission to marry and the limited grounds available to women to seek divorce. It was also concerned at the persistent discrimination against women and girls in inheritance law, custody matters, marriage and divorce. It recommended that Saudi Arabia remove discriminatory provisions regulating legal capacity, divorce, the guardianship system and inheritance.⁹¹

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work⁹²

41. The Committee welcomed measures promoting women's employment. It remained concerned about women's low participation in the labour market; the lack of enforcement of the law abolishing the need for a guardian's permission to work; persistent occupational segregation and sex segregation in the workplace; the concentration of women in low-paid jobs; and the persistent gender wage gap. The Committee recommended enhancing women's access to the formal labour market.⁹³ The ILO Committee of Experts encouraged the Government to increase the participation of women in a wider range of occupations than those traditionally considered to be "suitable"; ensure that any restrictions on women's employment were strictly limited to maternity protection; and repeal the order establishing criteria for women's work.⁹⁴ It encouraged Saudi Arabia to implement programmes to examine the underlying causes of the gender wage gap and to take measures to address them.⁹⁵

42. The Committee called on Saudi Arabia to address and prevent effectively all forms of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. It also requested information on labour inspection in relation to discrimination.⁹⁶

2. Right to social security⁹⁷

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia expand the coverage of pension and social protection schemes for women.⁹⁸

3. Right to an adequate standard of living⁹⁹

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Saudi Arabia improve the situation of marginalized groups living in poverty, such as non-Saudis who were not migrant workers.¹⁰⁰ The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty, noting the approach to social protection reflected in Vision 2030, recommended that the Government acknowledge the right to social protection as a human right.¹⁰¹

45. The Special Rapporteur stated that taxation was a crucial redistributive tool to decrease economic inequality and enhance equal opportunities. While inequality levels had dropped since 2007, they remained inordinately high.¹⁰²

4. Right to health¹⁰³

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the criminalization of abortion except when the life of the pregnant woman or girl was at risk.¹⁰⁴ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saudi Arabia decriminalize abortion in all circumstances, and ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescents.¹⁰⁵

47. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia provide comprehensive health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health services; ensure affordable modern forms of contraception; and strengthen prevention of sexually transmitted infections.¹⁰⁶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended including sexual and reproductive health education as part of the mandatory school curriculum.¹⁰⁷ UNESCO made a similar recommendation.¹⁰⁸

5. Right to education¹⁰⁹

48. UNESCO noted that Saudi Arabia had adopted several measures, policies and plans to strengthen access to quality education. It encouraged the Government to further ensure compulsory primary education for both girls and boys, including through the adoption of legislative frameworks,¹¹⁰ and to continue its efforts to strengthen its pre-primary educational system, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its target 4.2.¹¹¹

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that access to education for disadvantaged groups of girls remained limited.¹¹² The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Saudi Arabia ensure the same quality of education and educational options for boys and girls and generalize non-stereotyped educational curricula, addressing the structural causes of gender-based discrimination.¹¹³ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended providing girls with career counselling on non-traditional career paths and non-stereotypical fields of study.¹¹⁴ UNESCO noted that some girls deprived of a family environment reaching the age of 12 years remained in social education homes; such girls could only acquire life skills while boys in similar situations had access to secondary education opportunities and could participate in social, cultural and sporting activities. UNESCO encouraged Saudi Arabia to put an end to that practice and to direct those girls to the mainstream secondary educational system.¹¹⁵

50. UNESCO encouraged Saudi Arabia to fully implement the relevant provisions of the Convention for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and to give due consideration to the participation of a wide range of communities in doing so.¹¹⁶

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women¹¹⁷

51. Despite the enactment of the Protection from Abuse Act,¹¹⁸ criminalizing domestic violence, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the prevalence of gender-based violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence, which remained largely underreported and undocumented.¹¹⁹ In the light of the large number of reported domestic violence incidents, the Committee against Torture was concerned about allegations that the male guardianship system (*mehrem*) deterred and often prevented victims from reporting such cases.¹²⁰ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia adopt comprehensive legislation to specifically criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women, including economic violence, rape, marital rape, non-penetrative forms of sexual assault and sexual harassment; repeal all legal provisions exculpating perpetrators of domestic violence; investigate and prosecute cases of gender-based violence; and ensure access for victims to appropriate redress.¹²¹ The Committee against Torture urged the Government to train and adopt guidelines for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on how to investigate cases of rape and sexual violence.¹²² The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saudi Arabia to address the root causes of domestic violence and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to domestic violence.¹²³ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Government amend the legislation so that victims of sexual abuse were not punished if they pressed charges that later could not be proved.¹²⁴

52. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed deep concern that, despite repeated recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, Saudi Arabia still did

not recognize girls as full subjects of rights, and severely discriminated against them in law and in practice. It urged Saudi Arabia to ensure full respect for gender equality and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls.¹²⁵ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminated against women in collaboration with civil society, the media and community and religious leaders.¹²⁶

53. The Committee was concerned about the persistence of the male guardianship system,¹²⁷ despite measures taken to limit its scope.¹²⁸ It recommended that Saudi Arabia abolish that practice, adopt implementing regulations to enforce Supreme Order No. 33322 and ensure that claims of disobedience by guardians were not used to subject women to arbitrary detention.¹²⁹

54. The Committee was also concerned about persisting harmful practices, including child and forced marriage, the compulsory dress code for women and polygamy. It recommended that Saudi Arabia eliminate those practices, strengthen support measures for victims and remove discriminatory provisions regulating legal polygamy.¹³⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child also urged the Government to stop imposing a dress code on girls.¹³¹ The Committee against Torture urged Saudi Arabia to criminalize forced marriage.¹³²

55. Despite the entitlement of women to vote and to be elected to municipal councils, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the very low participation of women at all levels of decision-making. It recommended that Saudi Arabia promote equal and full participation of women in political and public life and in decision-making and that it address the cultural and practical barriers impeding the full political participation of women.¹³³

56. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty noted that challenges with regard to the human rights of women were heavier on women living in poverty, as many employers still insisted on obtaining the permission of male guardians before women could work. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government enforce the 2012 rule that women no longer needed a guardian's permission to work.¹³⁴

2. Children¹³⁵

57. In spite of the 2014 Child Protection Act and the Protection from Abuse Act, and implementing regulations,¹³⁶ the Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that the comprehensive review of the legislation relating to children had not been concluded. It recommended that Saudi Arabia develop without further delay a comprehensive law on children that embraced both child protection and children's rights.¹³⁷

58. The Committee was seriously concerned that judges had discretion to determine the age of majority and that they frequently authorized the marriage of girls who had attained puberty.¹³⁸ It noted that judges often considered underage marriage as being in the best interest of the girl child, leading to multiple violations of girls' rights.¹³⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that a high proportion of girls continued to marry before the age of 18 years.¹⁴⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Saudi Arabia to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys¹⁴¹ and to eliminate child marriage, including forced marriage.¹⁴²

59. The same Committee urged Saudi Arabia to repeal all legislation treating child victims as offenders; criminalize all forms of sexual abuse against children and prosecute and punish perpetrators; abolish the practice of allowing perpetrators of child sexual abuse to escape punishment; ensure effective mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation; combat the stigmatization of victims; and ensure effective reporting channels for such violations.¹⁴³

60. The Committee recommended prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including in the family.¹⁴⁴

61. The Committee expressed its deepest concern that children above 15 years of age were tried as adults, and that judges could decide that a child below 15 was mature enough

to be criminally charged and sentenced as an adult. It urged Saudi Arabia to raise the age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level.¹⁴⁵

62. The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to take measures to ensure compulsory education up to the minimum age for admission to employment or work of 15 years.¹⁴⁶ It requested the Government to take the necessary measures to eliminate the use, procurement and offering of children for begging, and to facilitate their rehabilitation and social integration.¹⁴⁷

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Saudi Arabia about any plans to criminalize the recruitment of children into the armed forces.¹⁴⁸

3. Persons with disabilities¹⁴⁹

64. The Committee recommended that Saudi Arabia adopt a social and human rights-based approach to disability.¹⁵⁰

65. The Committee and UNESCO noted that the vast majority of children with disabilities continued to receive education in segregated institutions.¹⁵¹ UNESCO encouraged Saudi Arabia to give priority to inclusive education and to strengthen educational opportunities for such children through the adoption of a comprehensive policy and a legal framework that guaranteed the right to education for persons with disabilities.¹⁵²

4. Minorities¹⁵³

66. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the persistent disadvantaged situation of Shiite women in many fields, and called upon Saudi Arabia to address those inequalities.¹⁵⁴

67. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Saudi Arabia take all necessary measures to ensure the rights of ethno-religious minorities, including their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and to eliminate all barriers faced by ethno-religious minorities in education, employment and the legal system.¹⁵⁵

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons¹⁵⁶

68. The ILO Committee of Experts urged Saudi Arabia not to expose migrant workers to practices that increased their vulnerability. It requested Saudi Arabia to indicate how migrant workers could exercise their right to freely terminate their employment so that they did not fall into abusive practices owing to the visa "sponsorship" system. It requested information on measures to ensure that all migrant workers enjoyed effective protection against discrimination, with a particular focus on the effective abolition of the sponsorship system in practice.¹⁵⁷ The Committee against Torture was deeply concerned at reported widespread torture, ill-treatment and trafficking in migrant workers, particularly female domestic workers, under the sponsorship (*kafala*) system. It stressed that that system increased the risks of trafficking, rape and other forms of torture and ill-treatment for female workers.¹⁵⁸ It recommended that Saudi Arabia legally protect migrant workers and guarantee their access to justice; urgently reform the sponsorship system; adopt or amend labour legislation governing domestic work; and provide support, legal aid and reparative measures to victims of torture, ill-treatment and trafficking.¹⁵⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended ensuring that the employment of migrant workers be regulated by labour law; that provisions protecting migrant workers were effectively enforced; and that migrant workers had access to independent and effective complaint mechanisms without fear of reprisals.¹⁶⁰

69. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the economic, sexual and physical abuse and exploitation and ill-treatment of migrant women and girls employed as domestic workers.¹⁶¹ The latter Committee recommended adopting a specific law regulating domestic employment; ensuring regular labour inspections of workplaces;¹⁶² enforcing the prohibition against passport confiscation; and guaranteeing due process before the courts to women migrant domestic workers.¹⁶³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged

Saudi Arabia to abolish the exit visa requirement and hold accountable those exploiting children as domestic workers.¹⁶⁴

70. Noting that there were around 500,000 undocumented Indonesian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia because of the cancellation of the agreement facilitating legal migration by Indonesia, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty recommended granting amnesty for those and other workers in a similar situation.¹⁶⁵

71. The Committee against Torture remained concerned about the absence of national legislation and procedures explicitly regulating expulsion, refoulement and extradition, and specific mechanisms for protecting minors at risk of trafficking.¹⁶⁶ It urged Saudi Arabia to adopt a comprehensive law on asylum consistent with international human rights standards; specific domestic legislation against refoulement; and effective remedies in removal proceedings.¹⁶⁷

6. Stateless persons¹⁶⁸

72. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia amend the Nationality Act to enable Saudi women to transmit their nationality to their foreign spouses and their children on an equal basis with Saudi men.¹⁶⁹ The Committee on the Rights of the Child made the same recommendation, particularly in cases where children would otherwise be left stateless.¹⁷⁰

73. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Saudi Arabia regularize the situation of stateless women and ensure their right to nationality without discrimination.¹⁷¹ The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended addressing the status of stateless children and their families through a naturalization process.¹⁷²

Notes

¹ Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Saudi Arabia will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/SAIndex.aspx.

² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.1–138.26, 138.32, 138.78–138.79, 138.81–138.90 and 138.222–138.224.

³ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 39, CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 43, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 72.

⁴ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 39, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 38 (h) and 72.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 20.

⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 6.

⁹ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 53.

¹⁰ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 6 and 46.

¹¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 10 and 67.

¹² See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 54.

¹³ *Ibid.*, para. 47 (d), CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 23 and 37, CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 42 (c) and 58 (d), and CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, paras. 34 and 39.

¹⁴ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Saudi Arabia, para. 25.

¹⁵ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 55.

¹⁶ OHCHR, "Funding", in *OHCHR Report 2017*, pp. 85 and 135.

¹⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.27–138.35, 138.37–138.63, 138.72–138.80, 138.91, 138.135–138.136, 138.140–138.143, 138.153, 138.156–138.157, 138.159–138.161, 138.175, 138.193, 138.211 and 138.225.

¹⁸ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 9. See also CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 34 (a)–(b).

¹⁹ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 10, CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 24, and CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 35 (a).

²⁰ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 4 (c) and 34 (a)–(b).

²¹ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 11.

²² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 21.

²³ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.

²⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.94, 138.182 and 138.215.

- ²⁵ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 13 and 15. See also para. 4 (a)–(b) and (d).
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 14 and 16 (a) and (c).
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 60.
- ²⁸ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, paras. 12 and 15.
- ²⁹ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 17–18.
- ³⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 33 (b).
- ³¹ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/25/3, para. 138.215.
- ³² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 5 and 21.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, para. 22 (c).
- ³⁴ See A/HRC/35/26/Add.3, para. 19.
- ³⁵ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.216–138.220.
- ³⁶ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 16 and 18 (a)–(b), and www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.
- ³⁷ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*
- ³⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.118–138.130, 138.139 and 138.151–138.152.
- ⁴⁰ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 42–43.
- ⁴¹ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 20. See also para. 43 (d).
- ⁴² *Ibid.*, paras. 21 and 24.
- ⁴³ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 38, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 17. See also CRC/C/OPAC/SAU/Q/1, paras. 5–7, and A/72/865-S/2018/465, paras. 200–216.
- ⁴⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 53.
- ⁴⁵ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 39, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 18 (b)–(d).
- ⁴⁶ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.
- ⁴⁷ See A/72/865-S/2018/465, paras. 200–216.
- ⁴⁸ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 5–6.
- ⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 7–8, 32 (b) and 49 (a), and www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 27.
- ⁵⁰ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 26–27.
- ⁵¹ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 35 (b). See also paras. 14–15.
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, para. 51 (a).
- ⁵³ *Ibid.*, paras. 10–11.
- ⁵⁴ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 13.
- ⁵⁵ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 27.
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 30–31.
- ⁵⁷ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 30. See also para. 26.
- ⁵⁸ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23134&LangID=E. See also www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23420&LangID=E.
- ⁵⁹ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23270&LangID=E.
- ⁶⁰ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 32 (a).
- ⁶¹ *Ibid.*, para. 33.
- ⁶² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.69–138.70, 138.123, 138.130, 138.137, 138.141, 138.144–138.151, 138.153–138.156 and 138.208.
- ⁶³ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 21–22. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 43 (g).
- ⁶⁴ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 7.
- ⁶⁵ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 20 (f).
- ⁶⁶ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 17 and 18 (c).
- ⁶⁷ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 44 (e).
- ⁶⁸ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 23–24.
- ⁶⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.
- ⁷⁰ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 19–20. See also paras. 32 (e) and 38 (d) and CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 29 (c).
- ⁷¹ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 43 (g) and 44 (h).
- ⁷² *Ibid.*, paras. 43–44.
- ⁷³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.46–138.54, 138.117, 138.154, 138.164–138.175 and 138.193.
- ⁷⁴ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 25.
- ⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- ⁷⁶ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 25 (b) and 26.
- ⁷⁷ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 19–20. See also paras. 16 and 18 (d).
- ⁷⁸ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 12.

- ⁷⁹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 55–56.
- ⁸⁰ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21584&LangID=E.
- ⁸¹ See UNESCO submission, paras. 3 and 6.
- ⁸² *Ibid.*, paras. 20–23.
- ⁸³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.44, 138.72, 138.80 and 138.131–138.133.
- ⁸⁴ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 4 (b), and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 35.
- ⁸⁵ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 35 (c) and 36 (a)–(b) and (d)–(e). See also CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 36, and www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3298596:NO.
- ⁸⁶ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 36, and www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3298596:NO.
- ⁸⁷ See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 36 (a)–(b) and (d).
- ⁸⁷ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 42. See also CRC/C/OPSC/SAU/Q/1, para. 11.
- ⁸⁸ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 41. See also CRC/C/OPSC/SAU/Q/1, para. 6.
- ⁸⁹ See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3298592:NO.
- ⁹⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.64 and 138.99.
- ⁹¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 63 (a) and (c) and 64 (a). See also para. 15 and CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 32 (b).
- ⁹² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.98, 138.176 and 138.182–138.183.
- ⁹³ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 45 (c)–(f) and 46 (c).
- ⁹⁴ See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3302413:NO.
- ⁹⁵ See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3189665:NO.
- ⁹⁶ See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3302413:NO.
- ⁹⁷ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/25/3, para. 138.185.
- ⁹⁸ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 50 (b).
- ⁹⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.186 and 138.221.
- ¹⁰⁰ See CERD/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 32.
- ¹⁰¹ See A/HRC/35/26/Add.3, para. 29 (c)–(d).
- ¹⁰² *Ibid.*, para. 31.
- ¹⁰³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.98, 138.102, 138.184, 138.187–138.188, 138.196 and 138.215.
- ¹⁰⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 47 (b).
- ¹⁰⁵ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 35. See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 48 (b).
- ¹⁰⁶ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 48 (a) and (c). See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 35.
- ¹⁰⁷ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 35. See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 44 (b).
- ¹⁰⁸ See UNESCO submission, specific recommendation 6.
- ¹⁰⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.30, 138.61, 138.65–138.67, 138.79 and 138.189–138.192.
- ¹¹⁰ See UNESCO submission, para. 14. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 36.
- ¹¹¹ See UNESCO submission, para. 15.
- ¹¹² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, p. 43 (a).
- ¹¹³ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 36. See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 44 (a) and (d).
- ¹¹⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 44 (e).
- ¹¹⁵ See UNESCO submission, para. 16.
- ¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- ¹¹⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.31–138.32, 138.34–138.36, 138.42, 138.55–138.58, 138.64, 138.68, 138.71, 138.75, 138.92–138.93, 138.95–138.115, 138.134–138.136, 138.157, 138.162, 138.176–138.181, 138.183–138.184 and 138.191–138.192.
- ¹¹⁸ See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 4 (c), and CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 4.
- ¹¹⁹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 31 (a).
- ¹²⁰ See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 36. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 29.
- ¹²¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 32 (b)–(c) and (g). See also CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 37 (a)–(c), and CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 29 (d).
- ¹²² See CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 49 (b). See also para. 37 (d) and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 32 (f).
- ¹²³ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 29 (a)–(b).
- ¹²⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 34.
- ¹²⁵ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 15–16.
- ¹²⁶ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 28. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 16, 22 and 29 (a).
- ¹²⁷ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 61. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 15.

- ¹²⁸ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 4 (a)–(b) and 61.
- ¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 62. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 16.
- ¹³⁰ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 29–30, 32, 63 (a) and 64 (a)–(c). See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 32 (b).
- ¹³¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 16. See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 30 (b).
- ¹³² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 37 (a).
- ¹³³ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 39–40.
- ¹³⁴ See A/HRC/35/26/Add.3, paras. 43–47.
- ¹³⁵ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.30–138.31, 138.40, 138.74, 138.115, 138.138, 138.132, 138.135, 138.138, 138.155–138.156 and 138.163.
- ¹³⁶ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 4.
- ¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 7.
- ¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 13.
- ¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- ¹⁴⁰ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 63 (b). See also para. 29.
- ¹⁴¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 14. See also CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 64 (c).
- ¹⁴² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 31.
- ¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, para. 30.
- ¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 28.
- ¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 20, 43 (a) and 44 (a).
- ¹⁴⁶ See www ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3300456:NO.
- ¹⁴⁷ See www ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3298621:NO.
- ¹⁴⁸ See CEDAW/C/OPAC/SAU/Q/1, para. 3.
- ¹⁴⁹ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/25/3, para. 138.215.
- ¹⁵⁰ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 34.
- ¹⁵¹ See UHESCO submission, para. 17, and CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 34.
- ¹⁵² See UHESCO submission, para. 17 and specific recommendation 4.
- ¹⁵³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.137, 138.189 and 138.193.
- ¹⁵⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 59–60.
- ¹⁵⁵ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/4-9, para. 24.
- ¹⁵⁶ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.31, 138.73, 138.86, 138.116 and 138.144–138.215.
- ¹⁵⁷ See www ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3302413:NO and www ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3298592:NO.
- ¹⁵⁸ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 38–39. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 40, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 37 (a).
- ¹⁵⁹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 41. See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 32 (d), and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 38 (f).
- ¹⁶⁰ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/4-9, paras. 18 (a)–(b), 20 (a)–(b) and 22 (a) and (c).
- ¹⁶¹ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 40, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 37 (a). See also CAT/C/SAU/CO/2, paras. 38 and 40.
- ¹⁶² See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 38 (b) and (e).
- ¹⁶³ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 38 (e) and (g).
- ¹⁶⁴ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, paras. 32 (d) and 40.
- ¹⁶⁵ See A/HRC/35/26/Add.3, para. 60 (d).
- ¹⁶⁶ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/2, para. 46.
- ¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 47 (a)–(b). See also CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 37, and CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 58 (b).
- ¹⁶⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.162–138.163.
- ¹⁶⁹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 42 (a).
- ¹⁷⁰ See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 23.
- ¹⁷¹ See CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 42 (b).
- ¹⁷² See CRC/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 23.

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Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Saudi Arabia***Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights****I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 31 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders**A. Scope of international obligations² and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies³**

2. JS11 recommended ratifying human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party.⁴ Alkamara, AOHR, FLD, ICTUR, MPV, RWB, SRW, JS5, and JS9 recommended ratifying ICCPR⁵ and MPV and JS9 recommended ratifying the two optional protocols to ICCPR⁶. ICTUR, SRW and FLD recommended ratifying ICESCR.⁷ Alkamara, ODVV and SRW recommended ratifying ICPPED⁸ and Alkamara and SRW recommended ratifying OP-CAT.⁹ ICTUR, ODVV and JS5 recommended ratifying ICRMW.¹⁰ ICTUR, JS5, CMA and HRW recommended ratifying ILO Convention No. 189¹¹, while ICTUR and JS8 recommended ratifying ILO Conventions No. 87 and 98¹². ICTUR recommended ratifying ILO Conventions No. 97 and 143¹³ and JS8 recommended ratifying ILO Protocol on Convention No. 29.¹⁴ ODVV recommended ratifying OP-ICESCR-OP, OP-CEDAW, OP-CRC-IC, 1951 Refugee Convention, Arts. 20 and 22 of CAT.¹⁵ JS5 and HRW recommended ratifying the Protocol of 2014 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention and JS5 recommended ratifying UN TIP Protocol and individual complaints procedure under the ICCPR, ICERD, CAT and CEDAW.¹⁶ JS3 recommended ratifying 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions¹⁷ and ICAN recommended ratifying UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.¹⁸

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



3. JS1, JS2, JS6 and Alkarama noted that despite having accepted recommendations to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders and to accept all the requests for country visits, since the last UPR, Saudi Arabia has only accepted the visit requests of two Rapporteurs¹⁹ in 2017. Saudi Arabia has 13 pending requests for country visits, some dating back as far as 2004. Among others, Saudi Arabia has accepted the request for a visit of the SR on the situation of human rights defenders in 2015, but failed to set a date, indefinitely postponing the visit. They recommended extending a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedure mandate holders and accept all pending requests for country visits.²⁰

B. National human rights framework²¹

4. ALQST noted that the Kingdom does not have a constitution that establishes an institutional human rights protection framework. Several legal statutes are imprecisely defined.²² ECLJ noted the basic governmental structure and governing principles is illustrated in the Basic Law, which stated that "its constitution is the Book of Allah (the Quran) and the Sunna (Traditions) of His Prophet". The judiciary is functionally independent, but the king appoints its high-ranking members. While the Basic Law mandates that governance shall be based on the principles of "justice, Shura (consultation), and equality", these concepts are interpreted "according to Islamic Sharia". ECLJ noted that much of Saudi Arabia's law remained uncoded and unpublished, which allows the courts to apply Islamic law, urging Saudi Arabia to begin to codify the remaining uncoded laws.²³

5. HRW and Alkarama noted that during the last UPR, KSA committed itself to bringing its criminal system in line with international standards; however, no measure was taken to this end. While KSA amended the Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) in 2013, it did not uphold due process guarantees. They recommended adopting a written penal code and amending the CCP to comply with international human rights law.²⁴

6. Alkarama noted that despite accepting a recommendation during last UPR to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), no measure has been taken to this end. The Human Rights Commission –the kingdom's official human rights institution– could not be considered as independent from the executive as it reported directly to the king, who appoints its members. Alkarama recommended establishing an independent NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles.²⁵

7. Alkarama recommended setting up mechanisms to monitor the implementation of relevant recommendations issued by Treaty Bodies.²⁶

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Human rights and counter-terrorism²⁷

8. AI welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism, in line with KSA accepted recommendations in its previous UPR.²⁸ Alkarama, ALQST, FLD, HRW, RWB, JS1, JS6, JS9 and JS11 noted that fundamental rights and freedoms are systematically violated under the pretext of combatting terrorism. The 2014 Anti-Terrorism Law contained a vague definition of terrorism, criminalized non-violent acts and failed to uphold due process guarantees. In 2017, a new counter-terror law replaced the 2013/4 law and it shared many similarities with its predecessor, specially an overly broad definition of terrorism, allowing authorities to classify peaceful dissent and participation in peaceful assemblies and protests as terrorism. The Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) is Saudi Arabia's counter-terror court system set up in 2008 to try terrorists, but it has increasingly been used to try human rights defenders (HRDs) and activists. They recommended amending the law and other legislation such as the Anti-Cybercrime Law, the Associations Law, Press and Publications Law and other laws and regulations, to remove provisions that

criminalize peaceful speech or crimes that do not resemble crimes of terrorism and bring criminal procedures for terrorism crimes in compliance with international human rights law.²⁹

2. Civil and political rights

*Right to life, liberty and security of person*³⁰

9. AI, HRW, Alkarama, JS1, JS5 and JS10 stated that death penalty has been used increasingly over the past five years with the number of executions per year reaching in 2015 (158 executions), twice as many in 2013 (79 executions). Death penalty is pronounced for a large number of crimes, including non-violent offences as drug crimes and adultery. The authorities generally fail to abide by international standards for fair trial and safeguards for defendants in capital cases. They recommended KSA to declare an official moratorium on all executions; amend legislation to limit its application to the most serious crimes; prohibit the execution of minors and review the cases of all prisoners currently under a death sentence with the aim of commuting their sentences.³¹ JS10 informed that in all cases of executions since 2016 involving SCC decisions against protesters and political opponents, no prior notification was given to the families, than an execution was to be carried out.³² JS5 was concerned that migrant workers and foreign nationals continue to be disproportionately targeted in Saudi Arabia's application of death penalty. Since 2014, 37% of persons executed were foreign nationals and the majority of them for drug offences. JS5 recommended reviewing narcotics legislation with a view of abolishing death penalty for drug offences and immediately commute death sentences related to these offences.³³

10. AI, Alkarama, CRIN, JS1 and JS9 noted that the government sentenced members of the Shia minority to death on terror charges stemming from participation in peaceful assemblies and protests, including minors. There are currently at least 42 men, mostly Shia, on death row, seven of them were minors at the time they allegedly committed their crimes, including Ali al-Nimr (who is the nephew of the executed prominent Shia cleric, Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr). They recommended Saudi Arabia to immediately halt proceedings to carry out executions of anyone who was under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged offence and explicitly prohibit death sentences, corporal punishment and life imprisonment of minors and raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. They also recommended immediately and unconditionally releasing and pardoning all prisoners of conscience and prisoners detained on assembly, protest, and religion-related crimes, who are on death row.³⁴

11. JS9 stated that Security forces used excessive force against civilians in Awamiyah in 2017, which led to the death of at least 24 civilians, violating the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. It recommended creating an independent court to investigate these allegations; prosecute the responsible members of security forces and promulgate legislation to ensure that civilians are protected and providing effective legal remedies.³⁵

12. Alkarama, AI, HRW and JS4 reported that since March 2015, Saudi Arabia has been leading a military campaign against Houthi forces in Yemen. They reported on numerous Saudi-led airstrikes in which civilians have been killed and injured, and civilian homes, markets, parks, hospitals, and schools destroyed, which would amount to war crimes. They were concerned about Saudi Arabia's compliance with the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack enshrined in international humanitarian law. They reported that the Saudi-led coalition has imposed a naval and air blockade on Yemen since March 2015 that has severely restricted the flow of food, fuel, and medicine to civilians. They recommended ending all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the prohibitions on attacks that target civilians and civilian objects; conduct transparent and impartial investigations into credible allegations of violations of the laws-of-war; bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to trial; provide full reparation to victims and ensure that all humanitarian workers are granted freedom of movement.³⁶ HRW, AI and JS4 recommended providing remedies and effective reparations to all victims in Yemen, and immediately halt blocking aid and commercial goods from reaching

civilians and unimpeded delivery of impartial humanitarian relief for civilians in need, as well as commercial imports of essential goods.³⁷

13. JS4 recommended Saudi Arabia to make all efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution to the conflict and extend full and transparent access and cooperation to the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen.³⁸

14. JS6, AI, Alkarama and IHRC noted that torture remained rampant in prisons and detention centers and impunity for perpetrators of torture prevails, despite accepting three recommendations. They recommended defining and criminalizing torture in line with CAT and ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated and perpetrators prosecuted.³⁹

15. SRW stated that arrests are in form of enforced disappearance, nightly raids and arbitrary detentions, where they are tortured and treated inhumanely. It recommended ending enforced disappearances and investigate allegations of torture and police brutality.⁴⁰

16. CRIN, GIEACPC, HRW and Alkarama noted that the corporal punishment in the form of amputation and flogging is lawful as a sentence, including for child offenders, even for acts, which do not constitute crimes under sharia law. Flogging is mandatory for a number of offences and can be ordered at the discretion of judges.⁴¹ MPV recommended complete moratoriums on corporal punishment, in accordance with international human rights law.⁴²

17. Alkarama and AOHR noted that the practice of arbitrary detention, which is already systematic, peaked when more than 200 public figures, activists, scholars, businessmen and members of the royal family were arrested under as the pretext of "fighting corruption" and/or "protecting national security". The security forces and intelligence services carried out arrests without warrants, and without informing the reasons for their arrest. Individuals were held in prolonged custody without access to a lawyer or their family and without the opportunity to challenge the legality of their detention.⁴³ Alkarama recommended eradicating this practice and effectively afford individuals deprived of their liberty all fundamental legal safeguards and fair trial rights.⁴⁴ AOHR recommended referring the matter to the UN General Assembly for action to hold KSA accountable for those violations and for remedies to be provided to victims and consider suspending KSA's membership of the HRC.⁴⁵

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law⁴⁶

18. AI recommended KSA to continue implementing all accepted recommendations from the previous UPR concerning the reform of the judicial system to ensure its independence and impartiality and that all its practices are in line with international standards of fair trial.⁴⁷

19. AI and JS9 reported that the new counter-terror law delegated the authority to arrest, investigate, interrogate and refer individuals to the SCC for terrorism-related crimes to the Public Prosecution and Presidency of the State Security, both of which report directly to the King. The law allowed the Public Prosecution to hold detainees without charge or trial for up to 30 consecutive days, incommunicado detention for up to 90 days during investigations, both renewable for an unspecified period by the SCC and restricts the rights of detainees to legal counsel during interrogations. It allowed the SCC to hear witnesses and to issue a verdict without the defendant nor their lawyer is present.⁴⁸

20. JS10 stated that KSA systematically use torture and ill-treatment to extract confessions and allowing courts to readily accept statements extracted under duress.⁴⁹

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life⁵⁰

21. JS9 stated that in recent years, the Government has increased the scope of its religious discrimination, often justifying its repression as necessary in order to counter terrorism.⁵¹ IHRC, SRW and Al-Baqee stated that KSA continued to repress and systematically discriminate non-Wahabbi ideologies, particularly Shia.⁵²

22. ADF International, ECLJ and JS9 noted that by accepting UPR recommendations protecting freedom of religion or belief, KSA has taken some steps such as revoking some

of the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice authority. However, it failed to provide substantial reforms, despite it generally tolerated private non-Muslim religious practices, while prohibiting them publically. They reported that KSA aggressively censored expression of religious beliefs and ideas, excluded minority religious beliefs from expression, imposed severe punishments for public religious activities, forced non-Muslims to worship clandestinely and exposed those who attempt to express their religious beliefs publicly to imprisonment or flogging. "Blasphemy" is conceived as a deviation from Sunni Islam and thus may be treated as "apostasy", which is a crime punishable by death (while actual imposition is relatively rare), imprisonment, and flogging. They recommended KSA to protect and promote the right to freedom of religion or belief by incorporating the right in the Basic Law of Governance; amend or abolish all laws that discriminate on the basis of religious affiliation; and repeal all blasphemy laws, apostasy laws, and prohibitions on proselytization and public practice of non-Muslim religions.⁵³ MPV made similar observations and recommendations while reaffirmed that criminalization of blasphemy and apostasy are contradictory to the Quranic mandate of "no compulsion in religion" (verse 2:256).⁵⁴

23. SRW recommended KSA to allow inclusion of Shia individuals in government, structuralizing anti-discriminatory mechanisms, reduce religious propagation outside Saudi Arabia and establishing third-party oversight to Saudi Arabian foreign anti-Shia propagation.⁵⁵

24. Al-Baqee and SRW reported that KSA prohibited the construction of visible Shia mosques and destroyed many sites of religious significance to many Muslims.⁵⁶ SRW informed that in May 2016 Saudi authorities began the demolition of Mousawara and Awamiya, a historical neighborhood in the Eastern Province.⁵⁷ Al-Baqee was concerned that the destruction of cemeteries, shrines, and other historic sites threatens to eradicate Islamic heritage sites of significance to millions of Muslims around the world. This systematic destruction of cultural heritage violates fundamental norms of international human rights law. It recommended ending the destruction of all sites and restore the Baqee cemetery to its prior condition. It urged taking urgent action to ensure that all Muslim pilgrims are permitted to visit and pray at Islamic holy sites including the Baqee cemetery, and remove all barriers to worship by non-Wahhabi Muslims.⁵⁸

25. AI, JS1 and JS9 noted that Saudi's Basic Law still does not provide for or protect the freedom of peaceful assembly. Peaceful gatherings of activists in public places remained outlawed. Prospective public rallies and assemblies must receive a government permit. The authorities categorically prohibit political protests or unauthorized assemblies, in particular in the country's Eastern Province. They recommended promulgating a law granting the right to peaceful assembly; ending the ban on peaceful protests and assemblies and criminalization of protests; release those detained for exercising their right and investigate the use of excessive force and extrajudicial killings against peaceful protesters and prosecute those responsible.⁵⁹

26. Alkarama, AI, HRW, RWB, JS1, JS6 and JS11 noted that Saudi Arabia adopted a Law on Associations and Foundations to comply with the accepted 2nd UPR cycle recommendations. However, they were concerned that the government used the Law to maintain strict control over civil society and non-governmental organizations and used this open-ended restriction to categorically refuse to officially license human rights organizations. To date, KSA did not allow independent political or human rights associations to register, and responded to the growing calls for political reforms by prosecuting and imprisoning political leaders and human rights activists. They also noted that the 2007 Anti-Cybercrime law criminalized free expression through electronic devices under the guise of protecting public morality. They emphasized that these laws allowed authorities to arrest bloggers, journalists, writers, and political activists for expressing their views through peaceful means. They recommended amending the Law of Associations to remove provisions that restrict the ability of NGOs to register and operate without undue government interference and amend the 2007 Cybercrime Law and other domestic legislation limiting the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. They also recommended amending the 2002 Press and Publication Law, and enacting legislation guaranteeing the right to freedom of expression. They called

on KSA to immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association; drop all charges against them; adopt a framework for the protection of journalists from persecution; ensure that journalists and writers work freely and without fear of retribution, intimidation and harassment; and ensure that the freedom of expression is safeguarded in all forms, including in the arts. They additionally recommended refraining from acts leading to the closure of CSOs or the suspension of their peaceful activities and grant all CSOs that have been arbitrarily denied licences to operate legally.⁶⁰

27. IHRC, AI, FLD, JS1, JS2 and JS9 observed that the repression of HRDs since 2013 is part of a larger campaign to silence all forms of criticism. HRDs have been systematically subjected to summons, interrogation and prolonged detention as direct consequences to their human rights activities. Most of the country's HRDs have been brought to trial for their peaceful activism, before the SCC and handed harsh sentences, following grossly unfair trials, marked by the extensive use of the counter-terror law. For example, all 11 founding members of Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), have been put on trial, charged and sentenced to prison terms followed by travel bans for their human rights activism. The authorities also ordered the organization's shutdown.⁶¹ AI and RWB also noted the case of blogger Raif Badawi, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail and 1,000 lashes in 2015, for "insulting Islam" and creating an online forum for debate.⁶² AI, Alkarama, ALQST, FLD, HRW, RWB, JS1, JS6, JS9, and JS11 noted that the 2017, counter-terror law allowed authorities to classify the work of HRDs, journalists and demonstrators as terrorists. The SCC has increasingly been used to try HRDs and activists, such as Waleed Abu al-Khair, a human rights lawyer. They recommended KSA to repeal all laws and policies that restrict their activities and rights; refrain from subjecting peaceful dissidents to reprisals under the pretext of counterterrorism and immediately and unconditionally release all HRDs and civil society members who were detained for exercising their fundamental freedoms and review their cases to prevent further harassment; and establish an independent and impartial mechanism to protect activists, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 27/3.⁶³ FLDA also recommended ensuring full respect for the Declaration on HRDs and refraining from using travel bans to punish the work of HRDs.⁶⁴

28. RWB, JS1 and JS11 noted that KSA required all media and publications to adhere to an undefined standard of "good speech" and to the laws of the State, which explicitly prohibit the publishing of content considered by authorities to harm national security, the state's public relations, or anything that leads to internal strife.⁶⁵ RWB ranked KSA as 168 out of 180 countries in its 2017 World Press Freedom Index. It stated that 11 professional and non-professional journalists are serving prison sentence and some 15 others have been detained with no official announcement.⁶⁶ RWB and AI noted that following the decision by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to sever ties with Qatar in 2017, Saudi authorities warned people against expressing sympathy with Qatar or criticizing government actions, leading to media office closings and resignations, as this would be considered an offence punishable under the Anti-Cyber Crime Law. They recommended to immediately ending arrests solely on the account of freedom of expression.⁶⁷

29. ICTUR recommended KSA to introduce specific recognition and protection for the principles of freedom of assembly and association to the Basic Law to allow establishing a trade union law in compliance with ILO standards.⁶⁸

Prohibition of all forms of slavery⁶⁹

30. JS5 acknowledged that Saudi Arabia has taken some measures towards guaranteeing rights to migrant workers and preventing trafficking, it remained concerned that the existing framework continues to deprive migrant workers of their human rights, they face ongoing discrimination in the criminal justice system and it failed to provide legal redress to those migrants who have been victims of forced labour, trafficking and torture. It recommended strengthening domestic anti-trafficking law to incorporate mechanisms for identification of victims of human trafficking and the non-punishment principle and strengthen domestic anti-forced labour law.⁷⁰

*Right to privacy and family life*⁷¹

31. Musawah noted that only men may divorce unilaterally and recommended Saudi Arabia to ensure that men and women have equal access to divorce rights and require both husband and wife to be present at the time of divorce and sign divorce papers.⁷²

3. Economic, social and cultural rights*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*⁷³

32. JS8 noted that workers are denied an array of fundamental rights. The few rights that do exist are not meaningfully protected. This is clear in the continued, widespread and severe discrimination, both through law and in practice, against women, minorities, and migrant workers. The Labour Code failed to provide for collective bargaining, and employer discretion in setting terms and conditions is paramount. While some workers, under limited conditions, are allowed to form worker committees, these organizations are not free from interference, nor given the liberty to organize themselves independently, and they can be dissolved by administrative authority. The limited protections that do exist rarely extend to foreign workers, and domestic workers are completely excluded from the Labour Code. These factors entrench the severe asymmetry between employer and employee, creating conditions that range from precarious to forced labour. JS8 recommended among others to increase women's access to the labour market by eliminating all restrictions employment, reforming the Labour Code to include domestic workers.⁷⁴

*Right to education*⁷⁵

33. SRW stated that it is forbidden to construct Shia educational centres. It recommended KSA to end anti-Shia educational efforts.⁷⁶

4. Rights of specific persons or groups*Women*⁷⁷

34. AI, Musawah and JS6 observed that women and girls face discrimination in law including in the Civil Status Code, Labour Code and Nationality Act, and in practice. They noted that Saudi Arabia made some progress in advancing women's rights. Despite these ostensibly positive developments, but they failed to implement the eight accepted UPR recommendations pertaining to the system of male guardianship over women. Women face numerous restrictions on their daily actions throughout Saudi society. The government has recently taken steps towards easing guardianship restrictions, but reforms are limited, and provide no penalties for offences. The system is not only set in law, but is a set of regulations that act as de facto law. They recommended immediately abolishing this system and ensuring gender equality throughout Saudi Arabia. They also recommended implementing laws protecting women from violence and codifying a Personal Status Law that ensures equal rights.⁷⁸ Musawah urged Saudi Arabia to ensure women can enter marriage without a guardian's permission; abolish the practice of forcible annulment of marriage; criminalize forced marriage and permit Saudi men and women to marry foreigners without government interference.⁷⁹

35. HRW noted that Saudi Arabia committed in its previous UPR to implementing the Protection from Abuse Regulation that detail enforcement and redress mechanisms for women and children facing domestic violence. It recommended promulgating anti-discrimination legislation that would prohibit discrimination against women by all public and private entities and impose penalties on those that do so and propose amendments to the Protection from Abuse Law.⁸⁰

36. Musawah noted that Muslim men could marry up to four wives at one time with few restrictions. Musawah recommended Saudi Arabia to abolish or severely restrict the practice of polygamy, including requiring the written consent of existing wives and introduce polygamy as a ground of judicial divorce and codify provisions to ensure that a woman has recourse if the husband enters into subsequent marriages without her consent.⁸¹

37. Musawah reported that women do not enjoy equal rights to custody and guardianship of their children as the father has priority. Musawah recommended codifying standards for granting custody based on the best interests of the child and grant equal right to guardianship of children.⁸²

38. AI, Musawah, JS3, and JS6 observed that Saudi Arabian women with foreign spouses, unlike their male counterparts, cannot pass on their nationality to their children or spouses. They recommended KSA to amend the Law to enable Saudi women to transfer nationality to their spouses.⁸³

Children⁸⁴

39. HRW noted that following its previous UPR in 2013 Saudi Arabia rejected a recommendation to "introduce a minimum marriage age of 18 years for both men and women," and at this writing no ban on child marriage has yet been passed.⁸⁵ Musawah noted that there is no legislation criminalizing forced marriages, nor is there a mechanism to sanction officers conducting them. It stated that under the Law on Child Protection, an advisory committee should examine each case individually to approve marriage to a person below 18. However, the standards to determine the minor's interests and welfare are unclear, and minors are often not interviewed. It recommended codifying and enforcing 18 years of age as an absolute minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys, and remove legal loopholes allowing exceptions to this rule. It also recommended enacting legislation criminalizing child marriage and codifying penalties for those involved in this practice.⁸⁶

40. CRIN noted that the imprisonment appears to be lawful as a punishment for child offenders. The Government has stated that minors may not be detained in a public prison and must be placed in supervised residential institutions. The law allows judges to reduce the period of time which children spend in supervised institutions "if they memorize the Holy Koran or improve their behaviour". There is no explicit prohibition of life imprisonment for child offenders.⁸⁷

Minorities⁸⁸

41. AI noted that Shi'a Muslim minority, who mostly live in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, face entrenched discrimination that limits their access to state services and employment. Shi'a activists and religious leaders accused of supporting or taking part in demonstrations in the Eastern Province or expressing views critical of the state face arrest, imprisonment and the death penalty. In 2016, 29 members of the Shi'a community were sentenced to death for protest-related crimes. Court documents show that all defendants were held in pre-trial detention for more than two years. Most were held in solitary confinement and denied access to their families and lawyers while interrogated. Several defendants retracted their "confessions", saying they were coerced in circumstances that in some cases amount to torture. The court rejected all torture allegations without investigating the claims. AI recommended putting an end to all forms of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and detention without charge or trial of members of the Shi'a community and uphold their right to peaceful assembly.⁸⁹

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons⁹⁰

42. CMA, HRW, ICTUR, JS7 and JS8 noted that Saudi Arabia does not have a comprehensive migration policy. They noted the recent efforts to improve protection for migrant workers, including the initiation of the Wages Protection System and the Philippines and Saudi Arabia Bilateral Agreement of 2015. In 2017, the Saudi government launched another 90-day amnesty program for migrant workers to return to their countries of origin. Despite these measures, migrant workers continue to experience violations of their rights. These experiences are attributed to the *kafala* sponsorship system, which requires a migrant worker to secure a No Objection Certificate from their employer in order to transfer to another employer or to leave the Kingdom. They were concerned by the mass deportation campaigns in 2017 "A Homeland With No Illegals," to drive down the numbers of migrants. They estimated that since then the authorities detained around 670,000 persons for violating its residency and labour laws. They recommended reforming the *kafala* system and to afford women migrant domestic workers the full protection of labour law and to

investigate cases of ill-treatment and abuse in detention and strengthen enforcement of laws protecting the rights of all migrant workers. They also recommended that while strengthening regulation and monitoring of Saudi recruitment agencies and cooperation with labour-sending countries, to monitor workers' working conditions, facilitate rescues and ensure recovery of unpaid wages. They called on KSA to investigate alleged abuses by employers and ensure accountability for those who commit crimes against their employees.⁹¹

43. JS5 was concerned that consular officials are not promptly informed of the arrest of their nationals, and are not given free access to them, thus putting foreign nationals at greater risk of receiving a death sentence and undermining their right to due process. It recommended the Kingdom to guarantee consular access immediately in consonance with Article 36 of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.⁹² ICTUR welcomed the Order No. 310 of 2013. However, it stated that domestic workers continue to face abusive employer practices, such as retention of passports, non-payment of wages, poor conditions of work, limitations to their liberty, and physical and sexual abuse. It recommended improving enforcement of legislation to protect the rights of domestic workers and provide domestic workers with full access to information, and effective legal and advisory services.⁹³ JS8 also recommended removing the exit visa requirement and to comply with ILO Convention 8.⁹⁴

44. AI reported that thousands of migrant workers and foreign nationals have been forcefully returned to their countries and other states where they would be at risk of human rights violations. It recommended reforming the national labour laws to ensure that migrant workers have adequate protection against abuses by private employers and the state.⁹⁵

45. ICTUR recommended Saudi Arabia to enable migrant workers to exercise full freedom of association and to ensure that migrant workers enjoy full protection of their civil and political and social, economic, and cultural rights.⁹⁶

Stateless persons⁹⁷

46. AI, HRW, Musawah, JS3 and JS6 noted that Saudi Arabia still does not allow women to transmit nationality to their children on an equal basis with men. They recommended ensuring that all necessary steps are taken to amend the Citizenship Law in accordance with international standards and to implement comprehensive safeguards against statelessness of any child who is born in Saudi Arabia.⁹⁸

47. JS3 noted that Saudi Arabia's nationality law contains no safeguard against statelessness at birth. Saudi Arabia hosts about 250,000 Bidoons, who failed to register for nationality in the past when the nation state was formed. Bidoons are considered "illegal residents" and are not eligible for Saudi citizenship. Bidoons in Saudi Arabia are particularly marginalized and remained the poorest segment of the Saudi population. JS3 noted that no estimates of the number of Rohingya which could possibly be over half a million while Palestinians are estimated around 287,000, who are mostly excluded from naturalization procedures. Being stateless in Saudi Arabia can result in violations of rights and other services and impeded family reunification. JS3 recommended taking steps to facilitate the pathway to citizenship for stateless Bidoon and ensure that no child of these communities are born stateless and all other populations in Saudi Arabia with a refugee and migration background, such as the Palestinians and Rohingya, are ensured full access to rights and services and a secure and indefinite residency status.⁹⁹

Notes

¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

ADF	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Al Baqee	Al Baqee Organization (Al Baqee), Chicago, IL (United States)

	of America);
Alkarama	Alkarama Foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);
ALQST	ALQST Advocating for Human Rights, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
AOHR	Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
CMA	Center for Migrant Advocacy, Quezon City (Philippines);
CRIN	Child Rights International Network, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg, (France);
FLD	Front Line Defenders – the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Dublin (Ireland), and Brussels (Belgium);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, New York (United States of America);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Geneva (Switzerland);
ICTUR	The International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR), London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
IHRC	Islamic Human Rights Commission, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
MPV	Muslims for Progressive Values (MPV), Los Angeles, California (United States of America);
Musawah	Musawah, the Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia);
ODVV	Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Tehran (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
RSF-RWB	Reporters Without Borders, Paris (France);
SRW	Shia Rights Watch, Washington D.C. (United States of America).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Geneva (Switzerland); Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington, DC (United States of America) and European Saudi Organization for Human Right (ESOHR), Berlin (Germany);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Geneva (Switzerland); Gulf Center for Human Rights, Washington, DC (United States of America); International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Paris (France); and World Organization against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (OBS), Geneva (Switzerland); and Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington (United States of America);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Eindhoven (The Netherlands), the European Saudi Organization for Human Right (ESOHR), Berlin (Germany) and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR), New York (United States of America);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: Mwatana Organization for Human Rights, Sana'a (Yemen) and Columbia Law School, Human Rights Clinic, New York (United States of America);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: Reprieve, London (United Kingdom) and European Saudi Organization for Human Right

- (ESOHR), Berlin (Germany);
- JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington, DC (United States of America); International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Paris (France); and World Organization against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (OBS), Geneva (Switzerland);
- JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** The Global Detention Project, Geneva (Switzerland); and Migrant-Rights.org;
- JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by:** The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Brussels (Belgium); and the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), Amman (Jordan);
- JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** European Saudi Organization for Human Right (ESOHR), Berlin (Germany) and Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington, DC (United States of America);
- JS10 **Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Reprieve, London (United Kingdom); Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Washington, DC (United States of America) and European Saudi Organization for Human Right (ESOHR), Berlin (Germany);
- JS11 **Joint submission 11 submitted by:** PEN International, London (United Kingdom); Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Washington D.C. (United States of America); and Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), New York (United States of America).

² The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.1, 138.2, 138.3, 138.4, 138.5, 138.6, 138.7, 138.8, 138.9, 138.10, 138.11, 138.12, 138.13, 138.14, 138.15, 138.16, 138.17, 138.18, 138.19, 138.20, 138.21, 138.22, 138.23, 138.24, 138.25, 138.26, 138.32, 138.78, 138.79, 138.81, 138.82, 138.83, 138.84, 138.85, 138.86, 138.87, 138.88, 138.89, 138.90, 138.222, 138.223 and 138.224

⁴ JS11, para. VII.

- ⁵ MPV, p. 7; Alkarama, para. 4; SRW, page 3; R. FLD, page 5; JS5, pages 15 and 16; AOHR, p. 4; JS9, para. 5; RWB, page 4 and ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6. See also A/HRC/25/3, recommendations, paras. 138.11 (Iraq), 138.12 (Romania) and 138.17 (Japan)-138.18 (Spain).
- ⁶ JS9, para. 5.2; MPV, p. 7.
- ⁷ SRW, page 3; R. FLD, page 5 and ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6.
- ⁸ Alkarama, para. 4; SRW, page 3; R. ODVV, page 1.
- ⁹ Alkarama, para. 4.
- ¹⁰ JS5, pages 15 and 16; ODVV, page 1 and ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6.
- ¹¹ ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6; JS5, pages 15 and 16; CMA, page 4 and HRW, page 7.
- ¹² ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6 and JS8, p. 8.
- ¹³ ICTUR, p. 1, 2 and 6.
- ¹⁴ JS8, p. 8.
- ¹⁵ ODVV, page 1.
- ¹⁶ HRW, page 7; JS5, pages 15 and 16 and JS5, pages 15 and 16.
- ¹⁷ JS3, para. 22.
- ¹⁸ ICAN, p. 1.
- ¹⁹ The Special Rapporteur (SR) on extreme poverty and the SR on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.
- ²⁰ JS1, para. 6.5; JS2, p. 4 and Alkarama, paras. 13-15 and JS6, para. 17-18. See also A/HRC/25/3, recommendations paras. 138.100 (Denmark), 138.101 (Republic of Korea), 138.102 (Austria), 138.103 (New Zealand), 138.104 (Switzerland), 138.105 (Costa Rica), 138.106 (Greece), 138.107 (Italy), 138.108 (Sweden), 138.109 (Senegal), 138.110 (Uruguay), 138.111 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Priorities were asked for extending an open invitation to the mandates of the SR on Violence against Women, human rights defenders; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, summary or arbitrary executions, torture, the rights to privacy and the WGAD and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women.
- ²¹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.27-138.35, 138.37-138.63-138.72-138.73, 138.91, 138.135-138.136, 138.140-138.143, 138.153, 138.156-138.157, 138.159-138.161, 138.175, 138.193, 138.211 and 138.225.
- ²² ALQST, p. 2.
- ²³ ECLJ, para. 3 and 9.
- ²⁴ HRW, page 2-3 and Alkarama, para. 5.
- ²⁵ Alkarama, paras. 8-10.
- ²⁶ Alkarama, paras. 11 and 12.
- ²⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.216-138.220.
- ²⁸ ALQST, page 1.
- ²⁹ JS10, paras. 6; Alkarama, paras. 7, 37-43; FLD, pages 1-5; ALQST, p. 2; JS6, paras. 9-11; JS9, paras. 4.6, 4.10, 4.13 and 5.9; JS1, paras. 3.1-3.11 and 6.2; RWB, page 2 and HRW, page 3.
- ³⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.118-138.130, 138.139, 138.151 and 138.152.
- ³¹ HRW, page 3; Alkarama, paras. 16-20; AI, p. 2 and 6 and JS1, paras. 2.4; JS10, pages 3, 4, 6 and 20 and JS9, pages 4 and 165.
- ³² JS10, p. 19.
- ³³ JS5, pages 4, 7.13 and 6.
- ³⁴ AI, p. 2; Alkarama, paras. 26-31 and 6; CRIN, 1-2 and 4-5; JS1, paras. 2.4 and JS9, paras. 4.32-4.39 and 10.1-2.
- ³⁵ JS9, paras. 4.18, 4.11-4.22, 5.8.3-4 and 5.7.
- ³⁶ AI, p. 4-5 and 6-7; Alkarama, para. 21; HRW, pages 1-2 and JS4, paras. 2-7 and IV.
- ³⁷ HRW, pages 1-2 and JS4, paras. 2-7 and IV and AI, p. 4-5 and 6-7.
- ³⁸ JS4, para. IV.
- ³⁹ JS6, paras. 15 and 18; AI, p. 3-4 and 6; Alkarama, paras. 22-25; IHRC, p. 5. See also A/HRC/25/3, recommendations paras. 138.7 (Czech Republic), 138.151 (France) and 138.153 (Australia).
- ⁴⁰ SRW, paras. 12 and 13.
- ⁴¹ CRIN, 2-3; GIEACPC, paras. 2.8-2.8, HRW, page 3 and Alkarama, paras. 16-20.
- ⁴² MFV, p. 3 and 7.
- ⁴³ Alkarama, paras. 26-31 and AOHR, p. 1, 3-5.
- ⁴⁴ Alkarama, paras. 26-31.
- ⁴⁵ AOHR, p. 1, 3-5.
- ⁴⁶ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.69-138.70, 138.123, 138.130, 138.137, 138.141, 138.144-138.151, 138.153-138.156 and 138.208.
- ⁴⁷ AI, p. 1-2 and 5.

- ⁶⁸ JS9, para. 4.26–4.31 and AI, p. 1-2 and 5.
- ⁶⁹ JS10, pages 3, 4, 6 and 20.
- ⁷⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.46–138.54, 138.117, 138.154, 138.164–138.175 and 138.193.
- ⁷¹ JS9, paras. 4.6, 4.10, 4.13 and 5.9.
- ⁷² HRC, p. 7-8. SRW, paras. 10 and 11. Al Baqee, p. 2-4 and 6.
- ⁷³ ECLJ, para. 4-5, 10, 15 and 19, ADF International, paras. 3-7, 10-12 and 18, JS9, paras. 2.1-4.4 and 5.3. See also A/HRC/25/3, recommendations paras. 138.47 (United States of America), paras. 138.94 (France), 138.117 (Argentina), 138.154 (Czech Republic), 138.165 (Romania) and 138.168 (Canada).
- ⁷⁴ MPV, p. 3 and 7.
- ⁷⁵ SRW, p. 2-4.
- ⁷⁶ SRW, paras. 10 and 11. Al Baqee, p. 2-6.
- ⁷⁷ SRW, paras. 10 and 11.
- ⁷⁸ Al Baqee, p. 2-6.
- ⁷⁹ AI, p. 2 and 5, JS1, paras. 4.1-4.3 and 6.3 and JS9, paras. 5.4-5.6.
- ⁸⁰ AI, p. 1-2 and 5, Alkarama, paras. 6-7 and 32-36, RWB, page 7, HRW, pages 3-4, JS1, paras. 2.1-2.11, 5.1-5.6, 6.1 and 6.4, JS6, paras. 6 and 13, and JS11, paras. 2-5, 7-10 and para. VII.
- ⁸¹ HRC, p. 2, AI, p. 2-3 and 5, FLD, page 3 and 5-6, JS1, paras. 3.1-3.11 and 6.2, JS2, p. 4, JS9, para. 4.6 and 4.11-4.12.
- ⁸² AI, p. 3-4 and 6, RWB, page 3.
- ⁸³ AI, p. 2 and 5, Alkarama, paras. 7, 37-43, ALQST, p. 2, FLD, pages 3 and 5-6, HRW, page 3-4, RWB, pages 2-3 and 7, JS1, paras. 3.1-3.11 and 6.2, JS2, p. 4, JS11, paras. 3.1-3.11.6 and 6.2.6, JS6, paras. 9-11, JS9, paras. 4.6, 4.10, 4.13 and 5.9.
- ⁸⁴ FLD, page 3 and 5-6.
- ⁸⁵ RWB, page 3, JS1, paras. 5.1-5.6 and 6.4 and JS11, paras. 2-5, 7-10 and para. VII.
- ⁸⁶ RWB, page 1.
- ⁸⁷ RWB, pages 3 and 5 and AI, p. 1-2 and 5.
- ⁸⁸ ICTUR, p. 1, 2-4 and 6. See also A/HRC/25/3 recommendations, paras. 138.48 (State of Palestine), 138.49 (Germany), 138.51 (Lithuania), 138.53 (Czech Republic) and 138.70 (Finland).
- ⁸⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.44, 138.72, 138.80, and 138.131-138.133.
- ⁹⁰ JS5, pages 6-15.
- ⁹¹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.64 and 138.99.
- ⁹² Musawah, paras. 8-12 and 29-33.
- ⁹³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.98, 138.176 and 138.182-138.183.
- ⁹⁴ JS8, p. 2, 5 and 8.
- ⁹⁵ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.30, 138.61, 138.65-138.67, 138.79, and 138.189-138.192.
- ⁹⁶ SRW, paras. 9, 10 and 14.
- ⁹⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.31-138.32, 138.34-138.36, 138.42, 138.55-138.58, 138.64, 138.68, 138.71, 138.75, 138.92-138.93, 138.95-138.115, 138.134-138.136, 138.157, 138.162, 138.176-138.181, 138.183-138.184, 138.191 and 138.192.
- ⁹⁸ AI, p. 4 and 6 and Musawah, paras. 8-12, JS6, paras. 3-4 and 16. See also A/HRC/25/3, recommendations paras. 138.100 (Denmark), 138.101 (Republic of Korea), 138.102 (Austria), 138.103 (New Zealand), 138.105 (Costa Rica), 138.106 (Greece), 138.107 (Italy), 138.108 (Sweden), 138.109 (Senegal), 138.110 (Uruguay), 138.111 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
- ⁹⁹ Musawah, paras. 16-18.
- ¹⁰⁰ HRW, page 5-6.
- ¹⁰¹ Musawah, paras. 23-28.
- ¹⁰² Musawah, paras. 34-38.
- ¹⁰³ AI, p. 4 and 6, Musawah, paras. 8-12, JS3, paras. 8-15 and 22, JS6, paras. 3-4 and 16. See also recommendations, 138.100 (Denmark), 138.101 (Republic of Korea), 138.102 (Austria), 138.103 (New Zealand), 138.105 (Costa Rica), 138.106 (Greece), 138.107 (Italy), 138.108 (Sweden), 138.109 (Senegal), 138.110 (Uruguay), 138.111 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
- ¹⁰⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.30-138.31, 138.40, 138.74, 138.115, 138.130, 138.132, 138.135, 138.138, 138.155-138.156 and 138.163.
- ¹⁰⁵ HRW, page 5.
- ¹⁰⁶ Musawah, paras. 19-22.
- ¹⁰⁷ CRIN, page 4.
- ¹⁰⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3 paras. 138.137, 138.189 and 138.193.
- ¹⁰⁹ AI, p. 4 and 6.

⁹⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.31, 138.73, 138.86, 138.116, 138.194-138.215.

⁹¹ CMA, pages 2-4, HRW, pages 6-7, ICTUR, p. 4, JS7, paras. 1-6, 8-11 and 32, JS8, p. 5.

⁹² JS5, pages 6-15.

⁹³ ICTUR, p. 4 and 6. See also A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.202 (Sri Lanka), and 138.214 (Philippines).

⁹⁴ JS8, p. 5.

⁹⁵ AI, p. 4 and 6.

⁹⁶ ICTUR, p. 4-5 and 6. See also A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.197 (Nigeria), and 138.215 (Viet Nam).

⁹⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/3, paras. 138.162-138.163.

⁹⁸ AI, p. 4 and 6, HRW, page 5-6, Musawah, paras. 8-12, JS3, paras. 8-15 and 22 and JS6, paras. 3-4 and 16.

⁹⁹ JS3, paras. 16-20 and 22.
